ISEKAI
CANCELLER

chapter 1 -10

Isekai Canceller

Chapters 1 - 10

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Chapter 1 “I am a Canceller”

My name is Hitto . Well, that being said, it’s actually the “Player Name” that I used in a game. The truth is, while playing that game I suddenly found myself inside the game world itself.

In my original world, a giant meteorite about two-thirds the size of Earth was about to fall down. There were rumors that the world was already doomed.

Regardless, the people of Japan were relatively calm. Surprisingly, everyone accepted their fate as if it was natural. People spent their last days with their family and lovers would whisper to each other words like “Let’s be together in the next life, okay?”

As for me, I spent my time playing a game that I liked. If I was going to die anyways then I thought that I might as well die playing a game.

It was an Online Game but I remember seeing a surprisingly large number of people logged on. Hmm, it must’ve been a coincidence

In the chat named『The meteorite is about to hit 』, I saw messages like “Good bye”, “Let’s get reincarnateeeeed!” and “The meteorite is coming~~~!” These kind of words completely covered my screen in an instant. Then, everything in front of me became pure white and when I regained consciousness I found myself in a forest.

I checked my surroundings but the environment had become exactly like the game.
Also, inside my head my status was being displayed.

Job was “Canceller” and main skill was “To Cancel”.

This was exactly like in the game I was just playing.

In addition, when I examined my face by touching it I discovered that it was identical to my original face. Well, my game character was made to be to look similar to me so that may be the reason but with black hair that felt short in the back and long, narrow eyes. Small features were deeply engraved that made it look like a half-Japanese person.

My original height was quite tall but I don't think my field of vision has changed much from before. I haven't measured my height in a while but last I checked it was 178 cm and I doubt it has changed much since then.

But, isn't this body's build a little different?
It was quite well-toned. In other words, it appears I've turned into a strapping young man.
The game's power lead to this sort of outcome, huh?

Oh, now that I think about it my equipment the same as well.

"Wind Cross" armor with breastplate wings.
For the arms, I have "Speed Gloves".
As for the leggings, I was wearing "Mach Greaves". I ended up wearing any equipment that would up my speed.

That being said, it was not like I wanted to be faster than everyone else saying "I'll become like the wind!~" or something like that.

The reason was because of my current job. The so-called "Canceller" job was able to cancel various things if you improved your skills enough.

In fighting games, "Cancelling" in a fundamental skill that involves making it look like you started a combo or technique and then shortening the action halfway through. But in this game you can make it so that the action never even happened even if it seemed it would follow through.

For now I place my hand on my waist. Yup, my specialty dual swords were right where I left them.

In addition, the throwing knives I used as a sub-weapon were also within arm's reach. It appears that my game state was left as it was before.

The bracelet and ring I used for reduced stamina use and automatic recover were also still there.

Regardless, even though I had seen something like this before in a web novel experiencing something like this for yourself is still pretty strange.

Well, whatever. The Earth was destroyed anyways. I have to continue living in this world no matter what.

Anyways, it’s time to experiment. Let’s see whether “Cancel” works properly.

I find an appropriate tree trunk and threw my knife at it. I pretty much knew how to throw it correctly. Because of my equipment’s effects, I was able to throw it quite effectively.
The game’s power were probably effecting my physical capabilities. Cutting through the air, the knife I threw struck the trunk right were I aimed it. It was dead-on, but that wasn’t the major issue right now.

The moment my knife hit the trunk I activated “Cancel”.

Afterwards, with a poof, the knife that was stuck in the tree disappeared and returned back into my hand. It appears that “Cancel” works exactly like how I remember it.

Incidentally the marks where the knife had pierced the tree trunk still remained. Even if I cancel that I threw the knife it doesn’t mean that I can cancel the fact that the tree actually got hit.

Let’s see, for now I throw the knife one more time. It hit the tree trunk again.
This time I wait for a while before activating Cancel but it doesn’t activate.
Exactly like I thought. When using cancel with this sort of weapon, there is a certain “cancel point” that exists. If you pass this point then Cancel will not activate.
By the way, the cancel point is from when you throw the knife up until the moment it hits the tree trunk.

If your proficiency in Cancel is too low then you pretty much can’t cancel anything.
This is the reason why this job is considered the worst occupation.

That’s right, Canceller was a terribly mistreated job. The development team probably thought that the Cancel Skill was way too strong.

Because of that, Cancellers start out with extremely low base attributes.
Their status growth was not that great either.

In addition, not being able to do a job change was a pretty big deal. Canceller was a character added just a little before the meteorite declaration was made after all.

We were told that the development team was dedicated to creating a high-class job but, even for the calm and composed Japanese people, after hearing about the meteorite it was impossible. Or rather there was probably not enough time for that.

But I didn't particularly regret it. Without a doubt, Canceller had very low capabilities but the job still had some enjoyable characteristics.
Especially, out of all the jobs this class was unique as it specialized in combos.
This was the reason why I chose equipment that specialized in agility.
Being able to move swiftly was convenient for combos.
Even if you use Cancel, if your movements are too slow then there's no point.

Although, thinking about that sort of stuff right now is pointless.
For now let's decide what to do from now on.

This forest is probably the Great Konbo Woods. Also attached to my waist is a "Magic Bag".
It was a magical bag that can store items up to a maximum of 1000 kg. There isn't anything like an unlimited item box but this is still good enough.

From within the bag I pull out a map. It was a magical map. This game's interface, instead of always displaying a map, required you to pull out every single item in order to check things.

It was a pretty strange way to do things. Though you could pretty much tell what your status, job, and skills were but everything else on the interface like your character's condition or physical changes was pretty much guesswork.

Furthermore, there was no numerical data available. But despite that, we understood general capabilities thanks to volunteers who had to establish a database online.

Although this world doesn't have any connection to that.

Anyways, I pulled out map from my bag and looked at it. The magical map was displaying my current position. I might have noticed because it's my first time in this sort of situation but this map is pretty convenient.

My current location was slightly around the south-southeast region of the forest.

To the East the Konbo River was flowing.
Since there wasn't much of a hurry, should I go and take a look?
I believe there was a trail that ran along the riverside as well. My throat was quite parched too.
Alright, it's decided then.

◇◆◇

「Iya~~! Please stop it~~」

「Shut up! Don't struggle so much!」
「Hey, hold her down!」
「Ok!」

「Geez, you're a slave anyways right? You must've been wagging your tail around every night for that guy.」
「Seriously, just let us have a little fun too.」
「Screaming Gya~ Gya~ like that, if you don't do it properly then we'll beat you to death.」

「Oh man, that's pretty harsh of you」
「「「Gyahahahaha!」」」

Well then……when I came to a place near the riverbank, how should I put this… basically I came across this sort of situation.

Mmm, if I remember correctly there were certainly times in the game when you would be escorting a wagon when a bunch of robbers would appear for you to defeat but seeing it happen in the real world was pretty graphic.

After all, lying a little bit away from the three robbers was the body of a well-dressed middle-aged man on the ground with his entrails hanging out. What about the surrounding adventurers that were brought along as bodyguards? They were all scattered on the ground.

There was a wagon around so does that means the one they killed was a merchant?

If this was still a game, the bodyguards would've been Players who would be returned back to town even if they died.
Still, I doubt it works like that in the actual world.

Thus, the person that the bunch of robbers were holding onto was a female slave. A young girl who was probably around the ages of 15 or 16.
I don't know if it was her previous owner's preference but she was wearing a pretty thin outfit and the robbers were tearing it to pieces. You could clearly see her underwear by now.

Hmm, she has quite the large pair breasts huh. Wait, this isn't the time to be saying those sort of things.

「Ohh! So soft… I can't get enough of this!」
「Oi oi, I can't wait any longer! Let's do her! Let's finally bang her!」

The man who lost his cool began pulling down his pants. That's disgusting, your ass is hanging out you know?

As for me, I want to have a look at that young woman's body too. But in my original world, as you would expect, looking at a 15 to 16 year old to definitely be out of the question.

Well, even from a distance I could tell it was a pretty cute young girl. Since I found myself in this situation I guess it can't helped.

So then I grabbed a knife from the belt on my waist and threw it towards the bunch of thieves.

「Alright, hehehe, show me what you got ther…..gihiiii!」

Ah, the knife magnificently pierced into his butthole. You're got to be kidding me. I performed Cancel and the knife returned back into my hand but it smelled horrible. That's seriously gross.

「Aaa gyaaa! It hurts! This really hurts~~~~!」
「O, oi! Anaru! What's wrong, suddenly you're holding your ass!」
「What is it, huh? Did the excitement finally make you go crazy?」

……Anaru was his name, you know. Can't it be used both ways, though?
That being said, he's really rolling around quite a bit. While holding the so called hole in his rear-end, he's tossing and turning around while screaming. Since he was plump he looked like a giant meatball.

Because of that, the worried man next to him just watched without getting

closer to him. As I was concealed in the brushes, the knife that was cancelled and returned to my hand was left unnoticed.

But really, I should throw this knife away. I wasn't particularly attached to this knife anyways.
Also, I also wanted to try out another weapon this time.

I plunged my hand into the Magic Bag and took out the rather crude weapon.

That weapon was the "Spiral Heavy Crossbow". It's the type with a considerably long body that you carry on your shoulders. Well, it was still a good item if I do say so.

Naturally, the bolts it uses are quite large. Compared to a regular crossbow they were several times bigger.

Even so, the true worth of this weapon is that, if you shoot it in a special way, the bolts shot by this crossbow spiral through the air.

So, in other words, it can fly through the air similar to how a bullet does. Because of that, the trajectory is stable and its penetrating power is high.

Well this sort of crossbow is…… The crossbow I'm holding is a rare weapon but in this game there weren't many people interested in crossbows.

The reason is because even if the firepower is high it couldn't be shot repeatedly.
Even if you change the capabilities and type of crossbow or even if you stay away from the high-powered ones that I'm using the fundamental characteristics of a crossbow won't change. No matter what abilities a high level player uses, after one shot it would be necessary to perform the unique reloading actions every time.

That is the weapon known as a crossbow. Furthermore, the types of Long Bows and Composite Bows where you pull back the bowstring with just your hand had the ability to increase the rate of fire depending on the technique used. In addition, there were jobs that had skills specifically used for the bow.

Because of that influence, despite being high-powered the crossbow that couldn't rapid-fire and couldn't use skills gradually became obsolete but——

But for me this crossbow was the only weapon that I needed to use.

I raised the crossbow to my shoulder and fixed my aim. This will probably stand out a lot, after I shoot I'll probably be discovered as a result.

As the giant meatball was rolling around, the shorter man bent over to look at his ass.

Then he stood up after noticing the wound and turned his head in my direction. He must have guessed from what direction the injury came from.

But in that instant I pulled the trigger. The wire that was used as a bowstring propelled the bolt forward with a tremendous force. I could briefly feel my hair shake and the wind pressure on my face.

Bang! The bolt tore through the air with a much more intense force than the knife. The spiraling arrow pierced through the wall of air in front of it and followed its aim towards the robber and splendidly bore a hole through the middle of his forehead.

Is it because of the bolt's large size? His forehead fell off as if it were just an illusion.
The size of the hole surprisingly huge.

And, after I confirmed what had just happened, I activated Cancel on the bolt and it returned back where it was.
I turned my gaze over to the crossbow leaning against my shoulder. The bolt had returned and was set firmly in its original position.
The bowstring was also pulled back to its ready position.

This is the reason why I chose the crossbow.
The truth is, if it was a normal bow then the bowstring would not have returned to its drawn position.
Only the arrow would have returned into my hand.
The arrow would not be wasted but it was necessary to pull back the bowstring a second time.

On the other hand, the crossbow would return into its set position.

This was the special trait of a Canceller from the game I was playing.
By raising the proficiency enough, the Cancel Skill could be used during combat.

By using Cancel you could return things to the state that they were previously in.

In other words, you can say that it allowed you to rewind time for a bit. But only for just a moment.
Also, just like when I tested the knife earlier, any damage that was dealt would remain.
In reality, the one who received the arrow had die just like that.

「Who! Who was it! Co, come on out!」

Whoops, as expected, anyone would notice if they saw the dead body.
Well, thanks to that it looks like they let go of the young woman.
Would the woman start trying to escape now? I thought she would but with a “gusuu gusuu” she seems to be snuffing her nose and looks like she’s about to cry.
Well, even if this world is based on a game the she is currently a real-life human being.
Of course I can sympathize with that.

Nonetheless, is this world an exactly duplicate of the game world? Or maybe when I died, since this game world was nearby, Kami-sama did something and sent me over here? I don’t know the details but, regardless, I can’t forgive that bunch for making a young woman cry like that.
Especially since she was cute.

Well then, there was no reason for me to listen to that robbers stupid demands. It would be easy to continue shooting arrows from here but——rather, with an opponent of this level there was still some things I wanted to test out.

That’s why I came forth from the thicket and showed myself to the remaining thieves.

Chapter 2 “Slave Girl Melissa”

「Wa, was it you!? Are you the one who killed my partner!?」

Having seen my appearance, the fellow thief cried out in a shrill voice. His gaze shifted towards my shoulder.

Ahh, I was still carrying the crossbow on my shoulder. This thing is pretty heavy and I won’t be using it so I’ll leave it on the ground.
Yokkoi-shotto

「Haa, haa haa! Why you gotta scare me like that! Whe-well then you’re the bastard that shoot that arrow before, right?」

Even though the man was panicking before, when he saw me drop the crossbow he must have thought it meant I couldn’t use it anymore. He had a joyful grin stuck to his face.
Well he probably couldn’t tell that the bolt was already set in position.

That’s quite convenient for me. Should I just let him think that?

「This is a special weapon, after all. There isn’t enough ammo.」

「Keke! I sure bet for that sort of weapon! Seriously, if you carry around such a weapon that doesn’t match your size then that’s bound to happen!」

He raised his voice while twisting his disgusting lips.
Seriously, just by seeing my weakness this guy is way too happy.

「Kuku ku, that’s fine. You’re probably just some big idiot who showed up because of a burning sense of justice. I’ll show how much of a fool you really are!」

He said some pretty extravagant lines and, from behind his back, pulled out an exotic weapon.
It was an unrefined weapon with a blade that was wide and curved towards the end.

Oh yea, there was weapon like that in the game. It should be called a Falchion. It was designed to cleave rather than to slice. Supposedly, you should be able to

compete with enemies even if they were wearing heavy armor.

He had a smirk on his face after looking at me. Probably because he saw that the armor I had on was only lightweight armor.
Did he not know a lot about equipment? For the record, I was wearing some quite rare gear.
That being said, back in the game you would still need permission to look at someone else's equipment, without high proficiency in the appraisal skill you couldn't just look whenever you wanted to either.

Maybe that is why he couldn't tell.
Well, even so he was underestimating me too much.
Either way, since he looks eager to fight, I also pull out the twin swords on my waist.

The sword my opponent is holding seems to be roughly 120 cm, eh? On the other hand, both of my swords are only about 80 cm and are not that long.
In terms of reach I was at an extreme disadvantage but I'm certain that my weapon mastery was much higher.

The twin blades I was holding were named "Seikou Kiten"

Wide blades with the hilt shaped like wings. With signature bluish blades and light as a feather.

Back in the game, the swing velocity and attack speed of these swift blades was extremely high, probably because of their light weight.
Incidentally, there were certain abilities in the game that allowed you to increase the velocity of your attacks in small bursts in order to raise your attack power.
The weapons I'm using are rare yet they were still not very popular.

The reason was because in the game when attack hits there would be resulting recoil. No matter how fast your initial speed was there would still be a delay because of that.

Also, weapons with high attack power generated less knock-back from enemies. As a result, despite having somewhat slower swings, this situation led to weapons with high attack power being easier to use.

But, the way I look at it the initial speed and velocity were more important.

If my attacks don’t hit then the Cancel Skill is basically useless.

Well, is my opponent still underestimating me? With a filthy, crooked grin, he was licking his lips in front of me.

And taking a great leap forward, with his Falchion raised overhead with both hands, the battle began.
Did he plan to split me in two with one swing?

How naive. I could easily dodge such a large swing but, well, since I went through so much trouble I might as well test out a few things.

「Cancel.」

I murmured a single word. I didn’t really need to say it out loud, but somehow it ended up coming out.
Then, in an instant the raised Falchion returned to where it was before—essentially, it returned to being held in front instead.

The thief’s face was clearly showing signs of confusion.
Of course it would. There’s no way this skill can cancel your opponent’s thought process.

For that piece of trash, who thought for sure he would have sliced his opponent in two by now, to suddenly having his stance reset back to where it was before, surely he would be confused.

「Wha, What!? That hurts, Gue!」

However, I’m not such a softhearted person to just stare at him in his confusion.

I immediately closed the distance between us in a flash and cut through the thief’s side with my right-hand blade.
His face was distorted in pain. My blade was carved into his flesh.

Normally there would be a delay from having to pull the blade away from his flesh but for me that didn’t matter.
I immediately activated Cancel, after my right blade returned to it’s original position I aimed for his collar with my left blade.

「Gihiii! It huuuuurts!」

The sword sank two-thirds into his shoulder's flesh. Then I used Cancel again and next, with a thrust of my right blade, I pierced his abdomen.
Because of the muscles there I can't penetrate all the way through, but still the man's screams were resounding in my skull.
There's more pain coming so shut up already.

Still this is going quite smoothly. Thanks to Cancel I didn't have any openings and I could set up one-sided attacks.

This was the number one reason why I wanted speed over power.
After all, as long as the skill was used after a hit lands then it was possible to continue attacking in rapid succession.

Of course that was only because this was still a game before, how this would work in the real world made me a little nervous but—

A horizontal slash to the right【Cancel】, a vertical cut with the left【Cancel】, a diagonal form the right【Cancel】, "Double Slicer"【Cancel】, below with the right【Cancel】, Double-Backspin Slicer…… hmm?
Fumu— I didn't notice that he died a long time ago, huh.
I somehow lost myself while in the middle of using Cancel.

In the game enemies would disappear to some extent so it was easy to tell but, I guess it doesn't work like that in the real world.
But still, this is pretty grotesque. Because of his worthless muscles, cutting through in just one slice was impossible for me who did not have that high physical strength.

That's why there was a stop in the middle of each strike. Well, I used cancel because of this reason, but because of the excessive amount of attacks this turned into quite the mess.

Well, whatever. I'm already used to seeing dead bodies anyways.
Still, Double Slicer and Head Crusher were actually weapon skills yet I was able to use them normally.
My status display showed I could activate skills so I thought that might be the case, though.

By the way, Helmet Crusher was a single slice aimed at the head while Double Slicer used both swords to slice consecutively.

They're both just like their names so it's easy to understand.

Well, it doesn't matter. For now, with this robber-like bunch were killed, and I got to confirm it through battle as well.
Everything was running smoothly—

「Sa, save, Pleas, Overlook……」

Hmm? Ahh, now that I think about it the guy with the hole in his butt was still alive.
Yea he's annoying, scum.

「Gyaaaa!」

I cut down the savage man with my blade but he just won't shut up, huh. Well, with that he definitely should be dead.
His name was Anaru but he died by a cut in his throat. Well it was a fitting end or these filthy thieves.

「Tha-Thank you very much for saving me」

This girl was crying and sniffling before but, it seems she has calmed down quite a bit after she realized there was no more danger.

However— I unconsciously looked away.
Yup, as I thought, unlike in the game, she is certainly a living human being. Aside from her reactions, the texture and sensation of her flesh also couldn't be compared to anything in the game.

……Well, is that so? It's just that she is not based on a Japanese person so her hair is somewhat different.
The girl I saved was, she was a lovely young woman with blond hair that stretched down to her shoulders. She also had blue eyes that snapped back into double-folded eyelids. Her height was lower than mine but for a young woman would this be considered average? Either way she would definitely be classified as a bishoujo.

And—The reason why my eyes didn't anywhere safe to look at was, because of those self-indulgent coupled mounds with only torn underwear left supporting them, my eyes were drawn into the emphasized deep valley.

Truthfully I wasn't completely unaware but, normally, for a person like me who has had little romantic experience before this level of stimulation was honestly quite intense.
Still, what size are those things anyways? I'm pretty sure they were G but—

「Kya! Ah, I, I am terribly sorry I showed such a vulgar sight.」

She was baffled for a moment after seeing me averted my eyes but, it seems she eventually figured out the reason and blushed as she turned around while covering her breasts with both hands.

But, if you wrap your arms around them like that and lift them up from the bottom then…… Wait, I need to calm myself down.
If this keeps up then I'll end up being a pervert.

「No, not at all. Personally, I'm more than glad to see to have seen though. But staying like that is certainly out of the question, right? Do you not have a change of clothes?」

「…… No, since I'm a slave, my master did not prepare anything but the minimum amount of clothing necessary.」

A slave, huh. By the way, the slave system itself originally existed in the game world as well.
In the game there were people called slave merchants who you could buy slaves from to use as support characters.

That being said, there were a great variety of both male and female slaves. And although there was a limit on the number of people you can lead at once, if a player was the head of a household, then it was possible to expand the number of slaves you can own by bringing them into your home.

Since you could freely dress up the slaves, looks were emphasized more than abilities. There were some people who had fun walking around with their slaves to show off their aristocratic-style as well.

That's why slavery in itself was not particularly unusual but— Still, having to provide clothes for your slaves, even if it was like that in the game, made the experience feel all too real.

But regardless, leaving her like this would be too cruel. She certainly stood out

like that and if she ran off in this situation, not only thieves but also some other misfortune was sure to come her way.

In the meantime, with Magic Bag in hand, I shifted my attention to its contents.
I spread apart the opening of the bag, stuck my face into it, and, in a large open space, was able to confirm the content of things I had left in there.

Still, I just sorta felt like trying it but the opening of the bag can stretch this far, huh.
Well, if it didn't then you wouldn't be able to put large things into it though.
Hmm, even so, it feels like you could fit a person in here, I wonder if that would work? It was impossible to do that in the game, though.

Well, nevermind. Anyways what's inside here is— Oh, here it is. In the past I came across a dungeon in a castle and what I left there with was this Mirage Dress.

Actually, up until the last day I didn't get the chance to test this out. I mostly played solo but I eventually came to a point where I also thought "Let's see if I can buy a slave."
At the time I thought "It's definitely better to have a female slave", so I went and got this dress for just the occasion.

I took it out from the bag and showed it to the bishoujo.

「To, to be carrying something like a Magic Bag is amazing! Umm, might you possibly be a renowned knight-sama or something of the sort?」

For some reason the woman used respectful language when she asked me the question, but is this Magic Bag really that amazing?
No, well, even in the game it cost a moderate amount of money. I easily got mine by using certain underhanded methods though…

Well let's forget about that, here I should act like an ordinary traveler and, wait, this is bad, I forgot to say my name.

「No, I'm not some fancy person or anything. I'm just an ordinary traveler by the name of Hitto.」

After I named myself the girl, with surprised face, hastily began bowing her

head repeatedly.

「I-I am deeply sorry! I am so deeply sorry! Even though you graciously saved me I had forgot to introduce myself to you.」

「Ah, that doesn't really matter. You don't have to use such polite language either. It's alright now」

If you suddenly act that way then I will become a little flustered too. Also with that appearance if you vigorously lower your head like that then that bewitching cleavage will come into sight, you know. And they were shaking with a *Purun Purun[10]*. It was a beautiful sight behold but it was somewhat embarrassing for my eyes to keep looking at.

「Uh, umm I, I am a slave by the name of Melissa who formerly attended to my master, Tornelo Sandly. I am truly thankful to you for saving me.」

Once she had finally calmed down the girl once again introduced herself and in turn expressed her thanks to me.
If you keep thanking me like that then I might start to feel guilty about it instead, though.

「Nah, it's fine if you don't think about it so seriously. More importantly I'll give this to you.」

As I said that, I presented her the dress that had been taken out from the bag.

「Huh? This, for me, is that right?」[11]

「Yea, that's right.」

「No-no way! I can't receive such a thing! On top of graciously saving me, a slave, to give me something so extravagant is unheard of! It's absolutely unthinkable!」

She is rejecting it with quite the vigor. While shaking her right hand and head back and forth, normally you would make the mistake that she hated it.
Well, with such a bewildered look on her face she really must be acting reserved.

「But I can't leave you looking like that, can I? It's fine so please just accept it. If it's really bothering you then just borrowing it for a while is fine. In any case if you continue looking like that then I'll have trouble knowing where to look.」

After hearing my words Melissa once again confirmed her own appearance and, in the blink of an eye, her face was dyed red.
Ah dammit, she's way too cute!

「I-I understand— Then for now I will be borrowing this—」

Without looking apologetic, she received the dress from me, and began restlessly shifting her eyes around.
Oh, is that it?

「If you need a place to change then it should be fine to use the inside of the wagon[12]. I'll be on the lookout for you.」

After telling her, Melissa readily left with an "I'm so sorry" and hid inside the wagon.

By the way, the wagon and horses appeared to both be alright. Well, it must be natural since the robbers were probably aiming for the wagon.
The wagon was a so-called "covered wagon" that had four horses tied to it.

The number of guards that had died was 5 people.
All of them were men who all looked like nothing but soldier-types.
Well, it was a fortunate none of them were women.
Even I wouldn't want to see a dead woman's corpse.

Well then…… after this I should think about what to do next—

Extra TL note: A blond hair, blue eyed slave with giant boobs, is somewhat clumsy, and talks like a maid huh… Our author is quite the maniac.

Chapter 3 “Melissa’s Request”

「So-sorry to have kept you waiting—」

Melissa exited the wagon with a somewhat embarrassed look but…… I think I know the reason.

Well, honestly I couldn’t equip it because I was a male, and I didn’t really worry about it since it was in the game but—

This is quite erotic to say the least…

The Mirage Dress had a V-neck design around the shoulder region which was tailored to emphasize cleavage. In addition, the hem of the dress was also considerably short.
More accurately, it was so short that it seemed like her thighs would suddenly be exposed at any moment.
It was a super-mini dress. Honestly, isn’t this almost the same as wearing underwear? That was essentially the case.
Still, to be given something so bold and extreme… I’m the one that gave it to her, though—

「Uhh, somehow, I’m sorry. Who would’ve thought it had that sort of a design.」

「Tha-that is not true! I think it is quite wonderful! Rather than wearing only underwear, this is honestly much better! Thank you so very much!」

While blushing she desperately tried to follow through with me.
I’m glad from the bottom of my heart that the first person I met after coming to this world was such a honest individual.

「You don’t have to thank me like that. Ah, but can you hear me out for a bit?」

「Yes! Of course I will! Hitto-sama, please feel free to ask me anything you like, ah, I am not sure if I will be able to answer everything but……」

「Of course, it’s alright if you just answer what you know. Also, since being called “sama” is a little embarrassing, it’s fine say my name normally, okay? 」

After all, I was originally a Japanese person. I'm not too comfortable with that sort of thing.

「Huh? What do you mean by "normally"?」

「Yea, I mean that I don't mind if you call me by just "Hitto"」

As I was trying to tell her that, Melissa began shaking her head from side to side while going "Buun Buun"

「That is absolutely out of the question! Not only did you save me but I, who has the social status of a slave, for someone like me to call you by your name like that!?」

Yea, somehow I expected that sort of a response. Because she's a slave, huh. She's not exactly my slave though.
Actually, since her old owner died, I suppose she shouldn't be a slave anymore.

「Then at the very least it's okay to call me by something like "-san" or just "you"」

「……I understand. Then allow me to address you by "Hitto-san". Although it is still very daunting to be calling you as such but—」

For some reason she's acting awfully humble, huh. Typically this sort of this is really difficult to deal with for me. I think I somewhat understand how the main character of a story feels when he says that he just wants to be approached normally.

……Well, never mind. For now I have a question.

「Soo with that, first of all about this place, if I am not mistaken around this area is the "Arts" region, correct? 」

「Yes it is exactly as you have said. This place is the Great Konbo Woods of the Arts region.」

Yea. This area is exactly what I thought it was. Well, the map also indicated that it was so I thought there would be no mistaking it.

「I see, then next I'll ask this. Since you are somewhat related to this, Melissa, where exactly was this wagon headed to? Also what happened to these people who died?」

「The one who owned this wagon was the merchant Tornelo. Having hired adventures as escorts, we were to travel through and exit this forest from the Northeast and travel a little further to the city of “Central Arts” while bringing along alcohol but what happened on our way there was, this band of robbers began to assault us and……」

Fumu. Central Arts, eh. Wanting to build a city on a hill, it was a city built around a castle that was constructed by the lord who governed this area.
I remember it being a somewhat large city.

「Is that so?— that’s very unfortunate. So then what do you think would be the best thing to do with this wagon and corpses? Since the robbers were exterminated, I wonder if the cargo is safe?」

「It is indeed as you say. In regards to the wagon since its owner has now passed away…… If Hitto-san so desires it then it is possible to take its possessions as your own. But it is necessary to have a legal transfer of goods, so you will need to bring Tornelo’s certificate to the Merchant Guild. After that is completed, since the alcohol inside is waiting to be delivered to Arts Central City, if you were to bring the goods there then it would be possible to receive a reward but—」

Fumu, so it’s something like that, huh. Naturally I did not know about something so complicated back in the game. Really, it’s a good thing I saved her.

After hearing about it I immediately took a peek into the wagon but, piled inside were about 10 wine barrels.
According to Melissa, each barrel was worth around 2000 Gold, or so I’m told.

By the way, Gold was the unit of currency. Well, it was the same back in the game.
Inside the wagon there was also a sack of money that was thoughtlessly left behind.

How careless. Just because you had adventurers as bodyguards you were taking it quite easy by carrying this around.
Well, with five people I would feel the same way. Still, just how weak were these five?

Incidentally, back in the game when you defeated monsters a coin-like thing came out and you can use that as money after collecting it. In reality, this world

had things like copper, silver, and gold coins though.

I confirmed this with Melissa. That said I just couldn't take her seriously , this bag was filled with nothing but gold coins after all.
Even without copper and silver coins in the bag, based on her reaction I felt she understood my question correctly.

If I was completely mistaken then she would have tilted her head at me or something like that but, because Tornelo was carrying nothing but gold coins, since she gave such a reaction then there was no mistaking it. (for clarity click here)

Currency was divided into finite units, gold coins were divided into three denominations: golden coins worth 5,000 Gold, 10,000 Gold, and 20,000 Gold.
If the value was different then the type of material in the coin was probably different as well.

If the actual value was larger than I think the weight would be somewhat different too.

「If you were to bring along the heads of the thieves then you will be able to receive a bounty as well. Also, umm, in regards to the belongings of the adventurers who ended up losing their lives, if were to you bring their adventurer licenses to the Guild, then there should be no problems even if Hitto-sama took their belongings as your own possessions.」

Fumu, this sort of thing is different from the game huh.
Well, in the game even if you ended up dying you would simply be revived and sent back to the town after all.
Also in the game everyone started out as an adventurer but, there wasn't anything like an adventurer's license.
You could always confirm it in your Status after all.

By the way, if I didn't bring along their adventurer licenses, because there was no way to confirm these adventurer's proof of death, their belongings would be treated as stolen goods and it seems that it would cause a lot of problems.

The same thing would happen for both the wagon and the alcohol as well.
Well, it wouldn't really take much time to take them both separately to the Adventurer Guild and the Merchant Guild though.

「I see, then for now I guess I'll take everything that seems useful.」

「Ah, yes! Allow me to help as well!」

With that said, along with Melissa's cooperation, we began removing pieces of equipment from the adventurers and started to reviewed them.

As for the thieves, making a girl decapitate them would be way too cruel so I did it instead.
Of course, since it seemed okay to freely take the thieves' belongings, I also looked them over.

And as for the merchant Tornelo, it looked like he was wearing somewhat nice clothes but, since the thieves slices them to pieces I doubt they would be worth anything.

However, on his finger was a ring that seemed like it was quite expensive. Let's take it with us.

The thieves had weapons that looked like they were worth some amount of money, huh. They left behind only a small amount of money.
The adventurers' gear also looked the same but, their equipment was higher quality than the thieves' equipment.

For now I just randomly stuffed things into the Magic Bag.

Should I also put the money in the bag, since it looked quite heavy.
Speaking of which, copper coins were divided into four denominations: 1 Gold, 5 Gold, 10 Gold, and 50 Gold copper coins.
Silver coins were also divided into three types: 100 Gold, 500 Gold, and 1,000 Gold silver coins.

There was only one kind of copper coin but there were still ten types of coins in total.
It would be troublesome if they all got mixed up.

「Ah、ano—」

As I was busy cramming loot into Magic Bag, while I was lost in thought, Melissa was nervously squirming while calling out to me.

「Hmm? Do you need to use the toilet?」

「Tha-that's not it at all!」

Her face was blushing as she cried out.
Did I not ask with enough delicacy?

「Actually, umm— I'm sorry! It must be impossible after all! I will give up on it!」

…… Huh? Wait, I haven't even heard what you had to say and to suddenly give up is kind of…

「I don't really understand what you are saying. Can you properly explain it to me?」

「Eh? Ah, I'm sorry. But to ask this of you would surely be an annoyance……」

Did she want to request something from me? Well, it would be troublesome if she asked something absurd but she did teach me quite a few things after all.

「What is it? It isn't like I can accept any request but, it's alright to go ahead and ask without any hesitation. It doesn't cost anything to just listen after all.」

She was strangely fidgeting while unable to say it clearly. I wonder what it is? Was it really something so troublesome?

Anyways if she stays like this then the conversation couldn't proceed.
With my eyes, I tell her "its okay to speak your mind".

「I-I understand. But, I believe it will be quite difficult but, i-if Hitto-sama would accept me as his slave, then! Or, something like that—」

……What? No wait, she shouted out the part about being a slave but her voice faded towards the end of her sentence. Somehow I feel a bit overwhelmed by all this.

Did I hear her wrong?…… No that can't be right.
This girl just said that she wanted to be a slave, right?

「Ah, ano, it must be difficult after all, right?」

Melissa wait for my answer to come as she looked at me with upturned eyes. That gesture was very lovely but, at this point it wouldn't work anymore.

「No, instead of being difficult I'm more surprised by it but— Just in case I'll ask but why would you want to be my slave?」

「Tha-that is, there is also the fact that you saved me before but, after talking to you I can see that you do not seem to be a bad person, or something like that……」

Since I'm not a bad person she wants to become my slave? I can't really understand her way of thinking.
If I wasn't a bad person then I wouldn't make her a slave in the first place.

Well, certainly there was slavery back in the game but, this girl definitely has a will of her own.
It wasn't like she was living in a game program or something like that.

「I have the feeling that with only that as a reason you shouldn't be readily saying something like "let me be your slave" though—」

For the time being, I just voiced how I felt about the matter.

「O-oh course I understand that I am asking something disrespectful! A lowly woman such as myself asking an educated person such as Hitto-sama like this……」

「No! It's not like that! That's not what I meant. It isn't a nuisance to me at all. It's more a problem for you yourself, right? Regardless of the reason, you have finally become a free woman. And yet, there's no reason to purposely go back to being a slave, right?」

I tried to persuade her by saying this. I might seem a little arrogant but there should be nothing wrong with what I said.
But, hmm? Somehow, eh? Why does she have a awfully surprised look on her face?

「……Umm, might Hitto-sama be unaware about the details of the slavery system?」

How impolite of her. For the record, I originally intended to learn more about it though—

Chapter 4 “The Unknown Slave System”

「For us slaves, even if the master we made a contract with were to die, we would not be freed from being a slave.」

Melissa’s voice resounded in my ear.
As she said this, her eyes were down cast and she seemed somewhat sad.

However, I didn’t expect there to be such a restriction.
Although if I thought about it more carefully then I probably would have noticed it.

After all, in the game a slave was a slave for their entire life. You could say it’s because of the game’s annoying hierarchy but, if that System stayed the same and was reflected onto this world then, a slave here might have to remain a slave forever as well.

No, but, even if this world was similar, the world I am currently in should be a completely independent world.

No matter how you look at it, to say that a slave will remain a slave for eternity, how can you simply accept that? In the first place, why is it like that? Is it useless to escape?

I tried to ask Melissa the same questions to find out but, she only shook her head from side to side.

「At the time when us slaves are first registered as slaves at the Slave Guild then, we have subordination magic cast on us. Although the subjugation vessel you receive when you buy a slave is something different, this magic cannot be undone for the rest of your life.」

Guild?…… Now that you mention it, when you bought a slave in the game there was certainly a slave merchant there as well. I have a feeling that the establishment that supports and gives slave merchants the authority to sell slaves is the Slave Guild.

「So, what happens when the subordination cast on you? Actually, how do you even decide when to cast subordination magic on someone? I have absolutely no idea at all.」

「Ah, yes. I had expected that to be the case. The one who casts the subordination magic is actually someone who is capable of using magic, and the only one who knows how to sever the magic vessel would be the slave merchant.」

Fumu, I see now. Apparently, according to Melissa's story, it seems that something like a magical seal is carved into the slave's body. But since it doesn't have a pleasant outwards appearance there was apparently an invisible magic formula developed for this purpose.

「But why would the Guild do such a thing? 」

「 It is in order to support buyers who have high political standings. In regards to the subordination vessel, there exists only a very few number of people with the ability to remove it. There are some slaves that run away and request these people to sever the connection to the subordination vessel but— Nevertheless, it seems that the magic seal is prepared so you be notified of this immediately. 」

「To support them eh, but what do you mean by public standing?」

「Yes, the true purpose is for making money after all. People who buy slaves are of somewhat high status and because of that the number of people aim for their lives and act hostile towards them are numerous. Like with the thieves this time, struggles for the family inheritances have lead to things like assassinations attempts becoming an everyday occurrence. At that time, if it were to be the case that the master who contracted with the slave were to lose his life, then the effects of the subordination vessel would also be lost. In other words, if it the situation were to remain that way then it would be as Hitto-sama has said and the slave would be set free. 」

「Well, if the power is lost then that naturally be the result.」

「However, the so called Slave Guild is a awfully greedy organization. Once you are enslaved it is already decided that you will remain as a money-making tool until death. That is also why the Guild applies subordination magic on you, even if your master were to die then your social status would still remain as a slave.

That is something that you can never escape from.」

I didn't expect for there to be such an arrangement. This is a setting that did not exist in the game.
Although, even without an official announcement, you could hypothesize that the developers might have came up this sort of a setting but, well you can't help but wonder.

「Fumu, That's how it is, huh. But in that case, Melissa, what would happen to you in this situation?」

「Yes. In regards to my master's death, the magic formula applied to me should have immediately notified the Slave Guild already. On this occasion I am being recognized as a slave without a master. And for slaves who's contracts with their masters has disappeared it is necessary to return back to the slave merchant within three days.」

「Within three days, huh…… what will happen if you exceed that time limit?」

「You will recognized as a runaway slave and have an authorized pursuer sent after you…… and the pursuer is a professional at tracking with a terribly sadistic way of thinking. Since the Guild also treats slaves as commercial goods you won't be killed but, I have heard that the pursuer is given the authority to torture you to the point where you will never again think about escaping as long as he makes sure not to kill you.」

Melissa's shoulders were shaking as she said this. Although she said it was only rumors that she heard, it seemed that she has witnessed some terrible events.
While always making sure to use healing tools or magic, the pursuer would repeatedly inflict physical agony by using gruesome torture, and if it was a woman then it seems that he would perform acts that would trample over her dignity as if it was okay.

The details didn't escape her lips but it was not hard to imagine what happened.

「I roughly understand what you are saying. Basically, as you are now, no matter what you decide to do your social status as slave will not change. If you don't go back then you will be labeled as a runaway slave and have a pursuer sent after you, and when you return you will just go back to being treated as

commercial goods by the Slave Dealer and be sold off again. If that's the case then you would rather want to become my slave, is that how it is?」

「It is exactly as you have said…… in spite of the fact that you graciously saved me and without regard to my social status I wish for that, though I think this is a somewhat rude thing to ask but—」

「I'm the one who asked you to talk to me in the first place. You don't have to worry about such things. Leaving that aside, is there really no way to release you from being a slave?」

「As long as a magic user doesn't sever it.」

「Is there no one else for except the people at the Slave Guild who can release it.」

「I believe it will be quite difficult. Above all even if you were able to forcefully release the magic formula without knowledge of it, there would still be a need to take caution as to not cause the slave's heart to burst and cause them to die.」

So you die?…… If it's like that then there's certainly no helping it.
My Cancel is able to cancel magic as well but, that is only up to the moment just before the effect comes out.
Except for certain parts, it is impossible to going back and erasing the past with Cancel.

「Will the group at the Guild absolutely not undo the subordination magic no matter what?」

「That's not true. In that regard, there does exist a contract for the sake of being set free. However, it necessary to amass 1,000 times the former slave's value for that. It goes without saying but, there is no one who would go that far to spend money on a slave specifically to set them free—」

One-thousand times!? Certainly, that would be a large sum of money. To be frank, even I have to say that it's unreasonable.

「In many ways, this is quite troublesome. However, I also got to know about more about it this way. As it is now, it's pretty frustrating knowing that you have to return to the Slave Dealer just to be used like that. But, is it really that easy to contract with a slave who has lost their master?」

「About that…… For the organization, once a slave who has lost their master is rescued from a dangerous situation, and in the case that they are sheltered and escorted back, if that person desires to then buy that slave then they will be given priority. However, the formalities would still cost some amount of money—」

Then, as she was peeking with a *Chirari*, Melissa hesitated to open her mouth.

So that's how it is. But if I thought about it then it's obvious.
Even though the Guild is small, since there is lots of money to be made they went as far as to apply subordination magic, you can't expect it to be free.

「…… I wonder how much?」

「Eh?」

「Melissa. I'm talking about your price. How much would it cost for me to be able to take you in as a slave?」

「Hii-Hitto sama……」

No, wait a minute, you're so happy to the point where that tears are building up on your eyes? Actually, I'm not sure if have enough money to buy you in the first place.

「I am overjoyed. With only the thought of it. It's just—」

「Just?」

「……It's about my price but, taking in to account that you rescued me from the thieves and sheltered me, even with that it would cost around 1.5 million Gold—」

1.5 million Gold — as expected it is pretty expensive. Certainly, high-grade slaves back in the game should cost around 500 thousand Gold. It ended up being more than twice the normal price.
Also according to her the price became cheaper than it normally would've been.
It's just, considering her outward appearance I don't think it is a ridiculous amount of money but I still find it a mystery.

While lost in thought I supported my chin while trying to think, Melissa lowered her eyebrows while looking at me with a worried expression on her face.

「I'm sorry, I have said something unreasonable. Of course, I did not truly think that I would be accepted as your slave. I just thought it would be kind of nice if that happened—」

「Do I have to pay it all immediately?」

Melissa sure gives up easily, huh. It is certainly expensive but I have already embarked on this path. Also honestly speaking I still have some lingering regrets from not being able to buy a slave back in the game.

Well, even if I say that, I originally didn't plan on buying her and bringing her along but, for me who has little knowledge about this world outside of when it was a game, a slave doesn't seem like a bad companion.
Actually she's a runaway slave, though. In this regard, I don't have the knowledge required to processes and manipulate the subjugation magic either.

Besides, she honestly had quite good looks nonetheless.
Let's get back to the problem at hand right now.

After all, I'm not sure if I'll be able to pay the entire price outright.

「No, since it was originally intended for slaves to be reserved based on the amount of money required, if you were to utilize that aspect of the system then you will be able to wait for up to around 5 days.」

5 days, huh…… That's honestly quite short but, if you consider that we haven't been traveled to either the Slave Merchant or the Guild yet then you can add three days time onto that and say that we have 8 days left.

「Hey, Melissa. Since you are here right now is it possible for you to estimate how much money profitable items are worth? Since you've spent time as the slave of a merchant you should be able somewhat knowledgeable about this sort of thing right?」

「Ah, yes. If just a little bit.」

Melissa answered me while staring back in astonishment.
Fumu, I would be grateful even if it was a little bit.
I immediately pulled out all the luggage from the bag, then gathered them up in one place for Melissa to have a look at.

「Since this ring was once used as the subjugation vessel it cannot be sold however, the rest of the rings total around 20,000 Gold, also the thieves' belongings were damaged quite badly and the large amount of rust would certainly stand out. Although they cannot be sold, I still believe that everything would be around 1,000 Gold in total. The adventures' equipment are magical articles so if you were to sell the recall stones then they would be 25,000 Gold. It appears that the rest of their equipment was maintained with great care as well. I suspect that the rest of these things would likely be worth about 8,000 Gold.」

……To be honest I'm quite surprised. No, I'm not sure if the numbers are correct but, she was able to quickly and skillfully calculated the values of the items.

Still, I honestly imagined that the recall stones would have quite a good value but, the real thing is much more expensive than its originally costed back in the game.

By the way, this is. Well, it's just like the name implies but, in the game you would essentially use these to be revived back in a prearranged town. In other words, it was possible to instantly return back to the church in the last town that you visited.

Incidentally the so-called "Church" was just a Point. In the case where you ended up dying in a small village without a Church then you wouldn't able to return there after all.

Even so, if they had these sort of stones then everything would've been fine if they used them right before dying…… You would probably assume that was possible but, in reality there was quite a bit of time between the moment you used it and the time when it activated. Back in the game it took about 8 seconds. Therefore the timing was very important when using it.

But in the real world there is the possibility that it would take even more time. Well, there was still a little underhanded trick to using these though.

「Speaking of, there really isn't anything like transfer magic after all, right?」

「Eh? Transfer Magic…… is it?」

「Exactly. Magic that let's you travel to your favorite city or to a desired

location.」

「Although I do not know of anything by that exact name, I have heard that there are some Warlocks who are researching something similar to that. As a byproduct of that, I have heard that if it is a small distance then with the power of magic it is possible to accomplish instantaneous movement by using sorcery. Since it requires a complicated incantation and magic formula it would not be an easy thing to produce but, it seems that there has been no success in performing long distance travel thus far.」

I thought that would be the case. This game didn't have any so-called transfer magic that was commonly used in other RPGs to travel around freely.
However, in regards to instant teleportation there still was the magic known as [Moving].
It was quite amusing to use it multiple times during combat, you know.

Well, you were still required to say the fundamental incantation for [Moving] back in the game so it seemed fairly difficult to use it in rapid succession, you see.

Incidentally, in this game. After preparing various magical incantations, it was necessary for the Player to mash them into his keyboard.

Of course, more powerful magic had a larger number of words so it was quite painful.
Although there was a shortcut function for messages, and even though there were some people who were skilled at using it, that still only had a limited number of uses after all.

Thus the so-called Warlocks were a magic series job that was the highest job of the top tiers. If I'm not mistaken it was the type that belonged to that of the highest-order.

But over in this world it seems like that occupation, like its name suggests, was properly striving towards research.
In regards to long distance teleportation magic, if this world's research keeps advancing then it might possibly be developed some time in the future.

Well, that's fine. For now, it seems the game's influence has a large effect on the current performance of jobs and magic in numerous ways.

Alright then, going back to the main goal, for now if we deliver the alcohol then we would get 20,000 Gold, other than that the rings and equipment can be sold for 54,000 Gold.
Afterwards we counted up the money just to see but, of course the merchant's gold coins were worth the most. Along with the copper and silver coins the total became 286,486 Gold.

In other words, everything in total became 360,486 Gold.
Well, I intended to sell everything in the end but…… Haha$_{aa}$, I'm sure in a tight spot. There's nowhere near enough.

Chapter 5 “To the Central Arts City”

For now, since there’s no point in worrying about it, I decided to head towards the city along with Melissa.

She wore apologetic face the entire time, and after she had given her estimation of the value of the items,

「It was unreasonable to ask after all. I cannot allow you to abandon all your hard-earned assets just for my sake. Since I have already given up—」(Melissa)

You can say that all you want but, since I’ve already come this far, I have the resolve to follow this through to the end.

That aside, after Melissa looked over the money she declared this. She had already accepted her place as a slave and, after finally being able to say it, to have her one wish destroyed like that. At least say it with a smile on your face, I’m begging you.

She said these words with a severely empty tone but, if you keep saying such disheartening words then I’ll get depressed too.

In addition, well, I feel that seeing Melissa’s smiling face would somehow soothe me as well.

If I were to say that out-loud then I’d end up blushing from embarrassment though.

Ah, but that sort of thing really warms your heart.

As for the money, it wasn’t like I couldn’t obtain that much.
Well, although it would be possible but, I would have to use something like a “last resort” — Honestly I don’t want to have to rely on that method.

Well, with that we decided that to head towards to city but —

But, this girl is quite high-quality after all.
After discussing that we should head to the city, and having decided to borrow the wagon, now that I think about it I don’t any clue how to handle horses .
In other words we shouldn’t have been able to operate the wagon without

proper knowledge about it but, Melissa was able to effortlessly pull it off.

It seems that, in place of her merchant owner, she would often take up the reins instead.
Come to think of it, the coachman seat had room for two people at once.

In doing this, I bet that her master just wanted to show off by having a beautiful slave like Melissa sit next to him.
Even in the game, instead of using them to assist in battle, slaves were one of the many ways to display your high status.

Well as a consequence of that, with a reliable appearance, Melissa managed to lead the wagon out of the forest. We headed down the main road at full speed until we reached the city.
On the way we passed a number of different wagons but, aside from that there wasn't any problems in particular. We arrived at the city a little while before evening.

In the game, the City of Central Arts was a somewhat large scale city. Because of this, even when it was still a game, it was a popular city for grown up intermediate level Players to meet up in.

The center of the city had a wide open plaza, and set up there was a giant water fountain.
This water fountain would continuously pour out water from within. According to the setting, through the power of magic, it was designed to display a clock on its surface as if it were a shimmer of hot air.

Shops with all kinds of tools and people passing by were all gathered here. It was easy to make this city into a base of operations.

A small hill towered in the back-side of the city, and on it rested a castle where the feudal lord resided.
This Fantasy-like city was enclosed by a rampart of guard stations, and three entrance gates were placed to the East, South, and West.
In regards to the Northern gate, because the road was connected to the feudal lord's mansion, it was not open to the general public.

Before each gate were two soldiers stationed as gatekeepers.
They had cylindrical helmets shaped like cook hats, and were outfitted with chain

mail.

Grasped in their respective hands were lances, each had a stone in the lower end with the spearhead pointed towards the sky.
Up until this point it was honestly pretty much exactly the same as in the game.
However, in the game you had a Free Pass to go through the gate but, it seems that it doesn't work that way in the real world. Lined up in front of the gate were several numbers of wagons. After showing them something like ownership credentials and after your luggage has been checked, you could enter inside the city.

And, naturally, when our turn came we also had to undergo similar inspection.

「This place is Central Arts! If you wish to enter this city then we demand that you present a permit and proof of your social status! In the case that you have cargo then it will also undergo an inspection!」(Soldier)

This soldier is quite arrogant. Based on his appearance he's around 30 years old huh. With a bony face, he is rather tall.

「I shall announce it to you thus. Mine name is Melissa. My master be Baron Tornelo Sandly, in order to deliver these goods of alcohol, we traveled together to reach this place but, on the way we were assaulted by thieves and a sorrowful result befell our escorting adventurers. I, as well, nearly fell into the thieves hands and was about to lost my life but, having been saved by this man here Hitto-sama, it was made possible for me to have survived until this point—」(Melissa)

Just as Melissa had said to me in advance, while extending words to the male soldier, she briefly explained the situation until now.
The main point were that after having defeated the thieves, and for the sake of providing Melissa with shelter after her master had passed away, having traveled this far, she wanted him to act somewhat lenient after hearing our story. It was that sort of thing.

As to why she was using such strangely stiff speech, it must be because she is too self-aware that she is a slave.
Although I'm not sure if she needed to go out of her way to reveal that she was a slave.

In the first place, Melissa already had a bracelet on her arm that acted as the subordination device.

Somewhat different from what a master would have, the subordination vessels given to slaves were designed to act as proof of their servitude. It seems that as soon as people see it they would immediately recognize you as a slave.

Because of that, well, it was pretty useless to try and deceive them.

「I understand your story. Now then, you bastard, what's your name?」(Soldier)

I'm called a bastard right off the bat, huh. You had a Free Pass in the game but you could still converse with the guards. But, I have a feeling that they were more gentle back then.

Well, nevermind. Getting mad about it now wouldn't help anything.

「My name is Hitto. I'm a traveler. As she said just now I came across thieves assaulting her by pure coincidence. So I ended up saving her as I was passing by. By the time I found Tornelo and the bunch of escorts they had already died. It was pretty sad, you know. Of course, with a history like that, I don't have anything similar to a permit. After all, I'm just on a self-centered journey going wherever I feel like and wherever the wind takes me. I don't have anything to prove my social status either.」(Hitto)

While spreading out both my hands, I said this while shrugging my shoulders. I tried to act like an elusive traveler but, judging my his reaction it didn't go over so well.

Indeed, his eyes looked at me as if he was looking at a suspicious person.

「Hitto-sama certainly does not possess any identification papers but, he has graciously rescued me and on top of that went as far as to assist me in transporting the luggage here. I beg you to please allow him to pass through.」(Melissa)

In an instant, Melissa tried to follow up with me. The soldier had a scrutinizing look on his face.

「I'm certainly a wandering traveler but, I plan on registering as an adventure at this city. I am quite confident in my strength as well. After all, I still need to

inform the Guild about the adventurers who regrettably passed away.」(Hitto)

After I said this, the guards exchanged looks and after discussing one or two words to each other,

「I see, an adventurer huh. Well, so that's how it is. If you managed to defeat the thieves then you must have some strength too.」(Soldier)

Fuu, I somehow felt relieved in my heart. As expected, being an adventurer was the key point.
Naturally, in the game, everyone was already registered as adventurers after all.

When you first Log In and arrive at the beginning town, you are guided to the Adventurer Guild and undergo the Tutorial.

It's just, after coming to this world, the guild's registration record seems to have completely disappeared.
To begin with, there was no such thing as an adventurer's license back in the game.
The game did have your adventurer rank displayed in your Status though.

But, now that the game has become the real world, things like adventurer's licenses became necessary to have.
My personal record must've been erased as a result of that.

I'll have to start everything over from the beginning but that can't be helped.

「Understood, we will give you permission to enter the city. However, we will still receive the toll fee. Also we will have to inspect the inside of your wagon.」(Soldier)

As expected, huh — Well, for now let's consent to that.
Thus the soldier rotated towards the rear end of the wagon and began his inspection of the cargo.

「Hmm? Ey, there's nothing here but wine barrels!?」(Soldier)

His voice cried out. The look that gave me was very suspicious.

「The only thing the previous owner was transporting was alcohol after all. Shouldn't there be a proof of delivered goods inside? I don't think there should be much of a problem.」(Hitto)

「But they were attacked by thieves, right? The personal belongings of the escorting adventurers should also be here.」(Soldier)

「Personal belongings? Unfortunately, because they were assaulted by thieves, many of the things were quite damaged and didn't seem useful. Aside from the alcohol we didn't bring anything back.」(Hitto)

As I said this the guard let out a loud groan.
It looks like the situation became just as Melissa had predicted.
I heard about it beforehand but, in the event that you have your luggage checked, it appears that if the contents are not ordinary things then an extravagant toll will be taken as tax.

Especially right now, with me being a man of unknown background, that really seems to be what happens in this situation.
According to Melissa it would be particularly bad if they found any money.
Though there were several soldiers distributed throughout this area, depending on the situation as much as half of it might be confiscated.

As you would expect, I wish to be spared from such an event.
Though that's why I hid the handheld bag so it wouldn't be found.

「Hmm……? Alright, then lastly I'll confirm what's in the feed-box!」(Soldier)

Ah, this is bad. Melissa's face also stiffened up.

Chi-, I have no choice. I drew closer to the soldier.

「Even if you look in there you won't find anything, you know.」(Hitto)

「That is for me to decide!」(Soldier)

Saying this, he prepared to pull out the lower portion of the wagon.
Inside there was the feed-box along with the horse food but, the soldier pushed his way past that—

「Hmm? Hey you bastard! What the hell is with this ba—」(Soldier)
「Cancel」(Hitto)

「……Hmm?」(Soldier)

After I activated that, with a blank look on his face the soldier alternated his gaze between my face and the bag.

「Is something wrong?」(Hitto)

With a sly smile on my face, the soldier with a bewildered look in his eye answered, “No,” and placed his finger on his chin.
Going with the flow of the situation I went and shut the feed-box.

「You’re already done with the inspection, right?」(Hitto)

I repeated the question to him.

「…… Yea. Ahh that’s true. Certainly that seems to be all the cargo. For now I’ll be receiving the toll. Along with the slave it will be 10,000 Gold.」(Soldier)

I obediently paid the toll, and climbing onto the wagon along with Melissa we passed through the gates—

Chapter 6 “The Ways to Use Cancel”

「I was frightfully nervous thinking that we would be discovered」(Melissa)

Having taken the wagon past the gates, Melissa who was serving as the coachman was patting her chest in relief as she said this.

With the valley of her breasts standing out as she drew her slender white fingers towards them, with a somewhat sensational feeling my heart began to race.

「However, I wonder why he simply disregarded that? It did not seemed as if he did not notice it but—」(Melissa)

While placing her finger on her chin, she mumbled at the mystery.
But for me,
「Who knows? Maybe in the end he thought a single bag was nothing to care about?」(Hitto)
I deceived her.

Of course that really wasn’t the case, this was also an effect of [Cancel].

In the first place, in regards to how a Canceller uses his [Cancel] skill, aside from simply using [Cancel] during combat there were actually a variety of different uses.

What I used this time was among one of those uses.
It was [Conversation Cancel].

Well just like it reads, this skill was able to cancel conversations.
Honestly back in the real world, since it had the feeling of “What does that even mean?”, I wasn’t able to properly judge what kind of effect it would have.

Incidentally in the game this [Conversation Cancel], if you were to use it during a conversation with an NPC then that would also be cancelled. It had the effect of releasing you from the conversation window.

In the game, once you started a conversation with an NPC, you would essentially become unable to operate the Command until the conversation was

over.
Of course there was a button you could use to shorten the conversation but, for an ordinary Character it was impossible to cancel it.

Because of that, if you were to accidentally click on an NPC that had a long conversation, although you could shorten it a little bit, it was still annoying.

A Canceller was able to cancel that. Originally you would not be able to use the Command while inside a conversation but, this [Conversation Cancel] was the only thing able to do that.

And then when you used [Conversation Cancel] in that instant the conversation window would disappear.
That was this skill.

So like this time when the soldier discovered us, if that was the case then I would have a sufficient reason to experiment with using it but—— this skill ended up having better results than expected huh.

It seems that when this skill is used on living things in this world, instead of simply cancelling conversations, it also cancels the things that they were thinking at the time when you use it. More precisely their emotions also became cancelled.

By watching that bewildered person I somewhat understood that it does not erase memories.
Simply, it seems that the feeling that he should investigate the bag once he found it had completely disappeared.
That must be why the person himself must have remembered being somewhat perplexed.

Well, either way, the change in this skill turned out to be a fortunate miscalculation. From here on there might be different ways to use it.

Hmm, but this skill really gives off an impression of being ill-natured. The main reason why Cancellers were hated in the game was because of this.

To be able to cancel an NPCs conversation——If it was just that then this skill wouldn’t have been so despised.
The truth was that this skill also cancel the in-game Chat.

Despite there being personal restrictions. If you used this skill on a specific individual then the person you used it on would have the words he typed disappear.
Thanks to this Cancellers who's only purpose was to use this to harass other people began to show up and it was quite troublesome.

Of course I never did such a worthless thing. It's just that for a while Cancellers became something that were detested because of it.

Hmm, while I was reminiscing about such a thing, I was able to gaze upon the open view of the city from the coachman's seat.
Of course my point of view was different from in the game but, it seems that the basic structure was the same.
On the way I talked with Melissa about it but, as expected the gates open to the general public were each placed one a piece in the South, West, and East.

Right now the wagon was traveling down a stone-paved wagon trail that continued down from the Southern gate.
The trail was something like what you would call a two-lane road with a lane on each side, aside from the wagon trail there was also an established sidewalk.

Because magic tools were developed to a certain extent, spaced in various intervals along the street were long and narrow columns, and suspended above them were what you would call magical lights.

When it becomes nighttime, these lights would illuminate the figure of the streets.

The townscape was, if I had to say it was just like a Medieval-Fantasy. Wooden and stone houses were all lined up in a row.

Since numerous buildings were each individually built to look alike, even in the residential area you would find many ready-built houses there.

Here in Arts Central was a water fountain in the plaza centered between all four directions. Although each one was separated, the wagon was now traveling down a large road that was one of eight in total.

In general the north side was the section for aristocrats, it boasted a high status. Well, in other words, people with a lot of money lived there. The south

side was where commoners lived.

Because of that, there was a large number of stores lined up on the northern side that sold extravagant items.
Conversely, established on the southern side were shops and markets for common folk.

In the game, the Church that acted as a resurrection ground on the occasion that you died, located on the side of the city's Western gate, it should have been constructed closer to the city's aristocratic side.
The church bell would be rung once every two hours.

Well, in regards to the time, if you went to the plaza then you could tell the time by the clock floated floated over the water fountain. Magic tools used as timepieces were also sold as interior decorations.

Since it was like that in the game, naturally everything here was set up in a similar way.
Likewise, in the game you should be able to purchase land and you could also purchase houses.
Since you could buy large plots of land in the aristocrat district and construct an extravagant mansion, to a certain extent it was popular with Players who had high levels and had gathered enough funds.

Conversely, since there was not much land was left in the commoner district, it was customary to rent out a room in an existing building.
Since the cost of living was cheap in those circumstances, I felt that it was a popular option for Players who thought "For the time being I want to have my own room~"

Well, as for me, I will probably be living at an inn for the time being.
Especially because I have to focus on gathering enough funds to buy a slave first.

「The Merchant Guild was somewhere around the Eastern gate, right?」(Hitto)

「Yes, Goshujin-sama. It is just as you have said」(Melissa)

「Is that so……eh! Hah? Goshujin-samaaa!?」(Hitto)

「Yes. I, now that I have thought it over, if you are to be the one to purchase me as a slave then, as expected using Goshujin-sama here would be the most

appropriate」(Melissa)

「No, that's not right. Didn't I already tell you? It's alright if you just call me Hitto」(Hitto)

「That won't do. After all, if that were the case then while we are in the city Master's prestige will begin to be doubted. In addition I personally wish to address Master as "Goshujin-sama"」(Melissa)

Melissa told me this while staring at me with a rather serious expression.
In the first place I haven't purchased her yet, I don't really give a damn if she calls me Goshujin-sama but…… I suppose she's quite obstinate about this sort of thing, huh——

「It can't be helped. Call me Goshujin-sama or whatever you want」(Hitto)

「Yes! Thank you very much, Goshujin-sama」(Melissa)

What exactly are you so happy about?…… Well, coming from a good-looking bishoujo, being called Goshujin-sama doesn't really feel that bad.

After that we traveled on the wagon a little farther. We approached the center of the plaza around were the fountain was.
Looking at the clock that emerged from the fountain it indicated that the time was 3:00 in the afternoon.

If that's true, then the time when I saved Melissa should have been around 10:00 in the morning, huh.
Incidentally the way you tell time and the calendar should basically be the same as in the world from where I came from.

Except that there was no concept of a week like Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Still, there was things like dates.
By the way, I learned this from talking with Melissa, today seems to be the Fourth day of April.

Well for now we changed the wagon's course from the South to the East and headed towards that direction.
Continued on like that, after about 20 minutes of traveling we arrived at the Merchant Guild.

It was a building made of red bricks that had a roof shaped like the character 𠆢.
In it’s own way it was a splendid building with both width and depth.
Well, it looked that way even in the game.

The design of a quill and an accounting book was carved onto the signboard, the words “Merchant Guild” were also engraved on it.

Across from the Merchant Guild was a storage area provided for you to park your wagons, we stopped there and secured the horses. Along with Melissa, we both entered the Guild from the front entrance.

Passing through some fairly stylish olive brown doors —— The figures of Guild staff members hectically running about made it seem as if we had just stepped into a battlefield.

In front of the long, horizontal counter, a queue was formed by various merchants and other notable people all lined up in a row.
As you would expect, such a spectacle was rarely seen back in the game.

This Merchant Guild, as it’s name implies, was an organization built for the sake of merchants. If you wanted to conduct a business then it was first necessary to register at the Guild.

Moreover, if you wanted to maintain a store then at that time you would need to go through the proper procedures. If you wanted to sell anything back in the game then you would have to ask them and wait for a response.

However, it appears like in the real world you need to fill out forms and go through various office-like procedures.

Incidentally, the feudal lord also entrusted the management of the land solely to this Merchant Guild.
Therefore, back in the game, at the time when you would want to buy a residence or land it would be necessary for you to come here and visit the Merchant Guild.

And it doesn’t seem like much has changed on this end.

Still, aside from that, this queue sure seems pretty boring. Coming here just to line up and wait, I have no idea how long this will take.

「Master. The line with many people standing there is for people who are registering at the Guild and for people who are requesting to open up a shop. Since Master is requesting a change in ownership of cargo it is possible to use this line instead」(Melissa)

Having been informed by Melissa, I moved towards the counter in the back.
Since over here has only about 5 or 6 people lined up, if it's like this then it certainly seems like we wouldn't have to wait for long.

While talking to Melissa about what would happen next I got in line and waited for my turn.
And then, after one more person finishes, it will finally be my turn at the counter.

「Yes yes, pardon me for a bit」(???)
「……」

For some reason a fatso wedged himself in front of me.

「Master, this is……」(Melissa)
「Ahh, he cut in front of us. In a fairly bold way as well」(Hitto)

Incidentally, behind me were about 4 or 5 new people lined up. This guy also disregarded them and cut to the front.

「Hey you, everyone else is standing in line so don't cut in front」(Hitto)
「……」(???)

The fatso didn't say anything. What's with this guy?

「Hey, you better stop」

The person behind me whispered in my ear.

「Why is that? Shouldn't you guys be angry as well?」(Hitto)

Starting to grow irritated, I turned my head and questioned.

「You don't know? That person is called Bungle, one of this city's most famous and wealthy merchants. He manages quite a large weapons and armor store, you know. I heard he has a lot of influence on the feudal lord. If you oppose him then you're in for a lot of trouble. For your own sake, it's better if you endure it right now」

「Bungle!? I, I have also heard of that name from Tornelo…… Using quite forceful methods he expanded his store, using everything in his power to destroy things he did not like…… Master, here we should——」(Melissa)

Melissa looked at me with worried eyes.
Then Bungle turned his head towards me and with a *Niyaa* he displayed a dirty grin.

「Well, I am in a good mood today. I'll pretend that I didn't hear those rude words that you said to me earlier」(Bungle)

「The next person please ～」

Ohh it was my turn next, but Bungle proceeded forward. For some reason the guys behind me were calling out, "Good for you, huh," and various other things.

Good for me? What kind of stupid things are you saying. I don't know how much of a great and wealthy merchant this guy is but, I'm not someone who would just consent and go "Oh, is that so?" just like that.

「Why if it isn't Bungle-sama. As always we have been in your care. So then, what sort of business do you have with us today?」(Guild Staff)
「Umu. The truth is——」(Bungle)
「Cancel」(Hitto)

I faced the fatso's back and let out a voice that sounded like roar.

「…… Umm, the truth is?」(Bungle)

With words that sounded like a question escaping his mouth, Bungle tilted his head.
The staff member faced him with a somewhat puzzled look.

「If your business is finished then would you mind going off to the side?」(Hitto)

Having told Bungle this, the fatso turned towards me with a bewildered look on his coarse, round face.

「You don't have any more business here, right?」(Hitto)
「……Ah, yeaaa」(Bungle)

Having said that Bungle got out of line, and just like that headed outside the building.

Seriously, You get what you deserve——

Chapter 7 “Stride”

Having driven out the idiot who didn’t understand the rules and reasonings of society, the Staff Member was also quite dazed but, just as planned it was now my turn.

Still, Melissa also seemed like she was puzzled. In fact, having seen these reactions, a job like Canceller may not even exist in this world in the first place, huh.

Canceller was a job that certainly existed back in the game but, the time period when it was implemented was short.
After all, the version update that gave birth to Canceller happened just a short while before the Earth was destroyed.

Hmm, but if that’s the case then I would be grateful. Frankly, when I use [Cancel] it turns out well but, if some incompetent guy were to use it then in that moment it would turn into something troublesome.

「I understand. After having defeated the thieves, you wish to take possession of Tornelo-sama’s cargo」(Staff)

「I heard that there would be no problems with that, though」(Hitto)

I explained it to the office person and asked for his conclusion. He was a pretty serious looking man who wore glasses.
Well, in regards to this matter, there probably won’t be any problems considering there was nothing suspicious about it.

「Yes, if something like this were to happen then, according to the regulations, it would be possible to transfer the ownership of the goods to the person took care of it. However, since the goods were already scheduled to be delivered, the responsibility of delivery would simultaneously be transferred. Is this alright with you?」(Staff)

「What do you mean by “responsibility”?」(Hitto)

Since this kind of thing wasn’t in the game I had no idea.

「First of all, you have an obligation to deliver the goods based on the previous contract. In other words, if you wish to have the right of ownership transferred then it will become necessary for you to properly deliver the wine barrels inside the wagon」(Staff)

「Oh, that's what you're talking about. There's no problem since I planned to do that from the beginning. Is it alright if I pay the fee here?」(Hitto)

「There is no problem in doing so. That is also included in the alteration. However, in that situation Hitto-sama would be required to pay a tax after the change of ownership but…… Does Hitto-sama intend to register at the Merchant Guild?」(Staff)

The Merchant Guild, huh.

「No, not right now. For now I think that I'll register with someone at the Adventurer Guild first」(Hitto)

There wasn't really a problem with being in two guilds at once but, since I didn't have a job related to production, it would be pointless to registered here.

「Is that so. If that is the case then there will be a tax collection on account of the alcohol. Will that be alright with you?」(Staff)

Hearing the Staff member's words, an "Ah!?" leaked out of from Melissa's voice
There was a so-called carelessness in the air.

Either way, a tax huh. No, I should have expected that. Originally, Tornelo might have had to file his taxes at predetermined times in order to be able to sell his goods.

「So then, how much is it?」(Hitto)

「Yes, that would be 1000 Gold for each separate barrel」(Staff)

…… 1000 Gold you say? If I remember correctly, I was told that the wholesale price for each barrel of this alcohol would be 2000 Gold. But the tax will be taking away half of that, huh.

「How do you decide how much the tax is? Do you take into consideration the sales price?」(Hitto)

「Of course. Considering that Tornelo-sama had previously decided on the price beforehand, I am simply reporting the information, you see.」(Staff)

「……Is that so. Well fine, I get it. I'll pay.」(Hitto)

For a moment I doubted him but, this staff member doesn't seem like he's lying to me or anything. He seems to be the clean-cut type of guy who indifferently treats work as just work.

There is the possibility that I wasn't able to see through his deceit but, if it was an official thing then there's probably nothing I can do. Besides, it wasn't like I wouldn't be able to still make a profit.

「Since there are ten barrels that would be 10,000 Gold huh. Can I pay for it here?」(Hitto)

「No, the teller window for payments is a different one. After we finishing making copies of the proper documents please bring them over there in order to pay」(Staff)

It is really just like a public office huh.

「I understand, I'll do as you say. So, is it alright for me to continue using the wagon?」(Hitto)
「It's alright to do so. We have already begun transferring the ownership of the wagon. However, we will have to dispose of the Guild's seal on it. You will be able to use these documents as proof of the change in ownership. As such, please be careful as to not lose it.」(Staff)

Hmm, so that's how it is. It would be a serious problem if someone were to misuse to Guild's seal after all.

Afterwards the Staff member skillfully made a copy of the documents by hand, and then handed me the copy.
Since the payment window was in a different place, I temporarily stepped away from the Guild and took out 10,000 Gold from the Magic Bag. I went over to the collection window and payed the tax.

「Master, I am terribly sorry…… I had carelessly forgotten about the tax——」(Melissa)

Melissa lowered her eyebrows with an apologetic expression.
But I wasn't particularly angry about it.

「Don't worry about it. Either way, we can't just not pay it.」(Hitto)

I told her this thinking that I could comfort her but, as expected she's still a bit disheartened.

「All things considered, to think that 1000 Gold would be taxed from 2000 Gold barrels of alcohol, huh. Was it always this high?」(Hitto)

For now let's see if I can change the subject.
And with that, Melissa opened her lips.

「The truth is it was cheaper back in the time of the previous count. However, since the previous count suddenly died from illness, his only son inherited this territory but…… Having been told his methods up until now have been too lax, he suddenly began to raise the amount of money required for taxes」(Melissa)

……I see, that's how it is. He's the one who imposed the high taxes. These kind of circumstances certainly never showed up in the game but, now that it was transformed into the real world you can expect this sort of thing to happen.

「But if the taxes were suddenly raised then the populace wouldn't tolerate that, right? Were there really no complaints?」(Hitto)

「Just like Master has said, there was some resistance but, the present lord has divided the weight of the tax among the social classes. Opposite of what one would think, various people, like profitable aristocrats, were given a cheaper tax by the feudal lord. Particularly, people like the leaders of the knights were given favorable treatment. Even if the populace were to rise up in a rebellion, there would be proper countermeasures to ensure everything would be okay」(Melissa)

So that's how it is. If you were to employ prominent aristocrats, then if worse comes to worse they should be able to suppress any uprising. In particular, I bet having the knights on their side was a big deal.

「I understand what you're saying. Well either way right now I, I have already decided to earn enough money to have my precious Melissa serve at my side. The tax hurt a little bit but I'll try my best」(Hitto)

While saying that I gave her a kind smile.

「Goshujin-sama—— Such kind words are wasted on someone like me」(Melissa)

Yup. With both hands covering her mouth, her cheeks reddened as tears formed and flowed down them. Aren't you overdoing it a bit?

Well, whatever. At least she seems to be happy for the time being.
Now then, with that, we get onto the wagon and first decide to go and deliver the alcohol.

◇◆◇

The bar that Tornelo had arranged to bring the alcohol to was located in the plaza along the Southwest side.
Since the front door was closed we circled around to the back entrance. A voice from inside told us to come on in, however——

「What's with that Tornelo guy. To be killed by some thieves, Geez how useless」

This bar's master was a black bearded old man but he simply spat out those words.
His appearance was of a sleazy man. His attitude also splendidly matched the way he looked.
I don't know what kind of person Tornelo was but, the man he had a business contract with died and he has this kind of attitude, huh.

Well, that sort of talk doesn't concern me though.

「So then, you're the guy that's suppose to bring the alcohol instead of Tornelo, Ye?」(Black Beard)

「……Yea, that's right. Just like that document says, the change in ownership has already been completed」(Hitto)

On top of being scrutinized with a stare that looked like it was evaluating me, to be called "a guy" huh.
Seriously, will a bar run by this dude ever be popular? Well, at the very least I would never come here.

「I get it, I get it. Then place the barrels over in that empty area over there. I have preparations to make so after you're done it would be great if you just leave」(Black Beard)

「……Wait, before that I would like to receive the payment」(Hitto)

I made a request I obviously had to right to but, "Ahhh?" he rolled his tongue in displeasure.
This is bad, it's just a feeling but this guy has a trashy stench about him.

「It's written in this document, right? I have the right to receive payment for this」(Hitto)

"Chii!" He clicked his tongue. Melissa's disgust also started to surface.

「You're a greedy fellow. This is why you registered at the Guild right, this guy. Geez」(Black Beard)

While grumbling complaints, he heading back inside.
It's neither greed nor bullshit. I've already paid the tax for this stuff.

「Here ya go. You should be fine with this」(Black Beard)

The man threw a leather sack filled with money at me. Every thing this guy does is starting to get on my nerves but I inspect the contents.
However——

「Hey! There's only ten 500 Gold silver coins in here!」(Hitto)

「What's wrong with that? That's all I'm gonna pay you. You ain't even a legit merchant so don't go complaining about it」(Black Beard)

「Huh? What are you even saying, you bastard. If this is all then it's out of the question. We paid a tax of 1000 Gold per barrel, you know. If we're going that far in the red then I have no obligation to sell you the goods」(Hitto)

「Alright I'll have you pay the break of contract then. According to the contract, if the goods are not delivered within a specified time-frame then you'll have to pay up 10 million Gold」(Black Beard)

Is this guy seriously saying this sort of thing? Does he not understand the meaning of a contract? Actually, you must be crazy to ask for 10 million Gold.

「In that case you should also abide by the contract and pay 2000 Gold per barrel! If you don't do that then the contract is a failure」(Hitto)

「Haa? Is you're head alright?」(Black Beard)

As the man said, for some reason he moved to the front of the counter. He opened up a drawer and rustled around looking for something.
And after a bit he came back with a single piece of paper.

「Here, take a look at this, it's the contract paper」(Black Beard)

Since the trash gave me the contract to look at I looked over it.

「It definitely says 2000 Gold per barrel according to this」(Hitto)

「Ahh, it certainly does. But take a look at the name, it specifically states that the person to be paid is Tornelo, right?」(Black Beard)

「Like I said, I already did the change of ownership and then came here」(Hitto)

「That's what something the Guild did on their own. I only promised to pay Tornelo compensation. In other words, I legally don't got to pay Ya a Single Gold」(Black Beard)

Haa? What's with that reasoning? If you were going to overlook that in the first place then there was no reason for me to go and change ownership.

「Then this contract is void to begin with」(Hitto)

Anyways, with that reasoning the contract has no meaning from the start.
The person in question has already died after all.

「But that's not how it is. Take a good look at where it mentions a breach of contract. The penalty for a contract breach doesn't specify a name, it just says that the person responsible will have the burden of paying up. In other words, since yer the one with the alcohol, if the ownership were to change and and the responsibilities were transferred to you then I have the right to declare a breach of contract」(Black Beard)

I was at a loss for words. What's with this contract. There isn't a single shred of equal treatment. The only strong point I see in this contract is that it's unfair.

No, besides, in the first place, this is——

「Kuu, this is a joke of a contract! First of all this breach of contract portion was clearly written in after the fact!」

That's right, this contract, there's obviously something wrong with the amount of money for a breach in contract. After all, three of the digits had characters that overlapped each other.

「Huh? Do you have any proof that shows that I added them on afterwards? This is the only copy of the contract, right?」(Black Beard)

……This guy, he assumed that neither I nor Tornelo was carrying to contract which led to this…… Certainly the contract was not in the wagon to begin with but——

「Goshujin-sama……」(Melissa)

Melissa sent a worried expression my way.
At any rate, to think that there would be such a screwed up contract huh. On top of that this guy is ignoring that fact that digits were added on afterwards.

「At any rate, I'm playing you 500 Gold per barrel purely out of my good will. If you get that then hurry up and leave the alcohol here」(Black Beard)

……Chii, if that's the case then it can't be helped.

「I get it. Melissa, let's carry in the alcohol」(Hitto)

「EH!? But Goshujin-sama!」(Melissa)

Melissa widened her eyes in amazement. But you know, there's no helping it.

「Hmph, looks like you understand. If you get it then hurry up and bring 'em in」(Black Beard)

「Ahh, but first I'll have you confirm the delivery of the goods. I don't want you complaining about it later, after all」(Hitto)

「Hmph! I'm busy but I guess it can't be helped, I'll at least do that for you」(Black Beard)

This guy is thoroughly arrogant. As expected, Melissa appears to be completely against the idea but, anyhow we carry the alcohol into the store.

「With this we're finished. Alright then, Melissa. I'm worried about the wagon

so go back ahead of me」(Hitto)

「……Yes」(Melissa)

Melissa sure seems frustrated with her face turned down, huh.

「Also Melissa, until I return make sure to patiently wait for me in the wagon. In the wagon, you hear? Is that good?」(Hitto)

「Eh? Ah, of course」(Melissa)

With a puzzled expression, Melissa exited through the back door.
Alright then.

「So then, here's the alcohol that was to be delivered. There's no problem with it, right?」(Hitto)

「Ahh, there's certainly ten barrels here」(Black Beard)

「Alright. Then, I'll be alright for me to take this 5000 Gold, right?」(Hitto)

As I said this I took ten of the 500 Gold silver coins from within the leather sack and placed them in my bag.

「Yea, with this the transaction has been safely completed」(Black Beard)

「Yup, that's true. Well then, that transaction I—— will [Cancel] it!」(Hitto)

「Huh? What are yo……」(Black Beard)

「What's wrong?」(Hitto)

「Hmm? Ah, nothing」(Black Beard)

The idiot tilted his head and held his chin.

「Alright then, I'll be taking back this alcohol」(Hitto)

「What!? Wait, stop screwing with me! If you did that then you'd breach the contract!」(Black Beard)

「That wouldn't be a good joke. Then the 5000 Gold you first mentioned would be enough. Please pay up」(Hitto)

「……Ah, ahh so that's how it is」(Black Beard)

Having said that the bearded man left and once again put ten silver coins into

the leather sack and came back.
I took them out and placed them in my bag.

「Now with this, the contract has been fulfilled but—— I'll also [Cancel] this!」(Hitto)

After that, I repeated to process until that master cried out "There's nothing left, what happened to all the money!?"——

Chapter 8 “To the Adventurer Guild”

「EH!? He paid you 600,000 Gold!?」

When I returned to wagon Melissa said to me, “You sure took a long time, desu ne,” while looking considerably worried about me.
Well that’s was certainly true. After all I spent nearly two hours confined in there.
It seems that she was conflicted on whether or not she should come inside and check on me.
That’s was close. If possible I didn’t want her seeing me use that trick.

「At any rate, still, why did he suddenly——」(Melissa)

Melissa was once again interrogating me with quite curious eyes.

Well, I expected that. At best the wholesale price should’ve been valued at 20,000 Gold. That price somehow became 600,000 Gold.

「Well, you know. After looking at that contract really hard I managed to find a loophole. If people found out about it then that store would be in a whole bunch of trouble. That master earnestly apologized and tried to persuade me saying “I’ll pay you this much so please let me off the hook.” I’m no devil after all. I let him off with just that」(Hitto)

It was a pretty absurd story but well, Melissa probably won’t pry any farther after hearing that.

「O, Oh I see. But as expected of Master! To be able to identify an error in that sort of contract! As a slave, I could not possibly be more proud」(Melissa)

Unexpectedly she responded with a sort of sparkle in her eye—— It’s fine if you think it’s great, but that way of thinking might end up being a bit dangerous.

「However, was that store really popular enough to be able to pay 600,000 Gold?」(Melissa)

She placed her index finger on her cheek in a lovely manner and tilted her

head.
Well, he came close to losing all of his money. They might go bankrupt but like I give a crap about that store.

Still, we made it this far quite smoothly huh.
As expected it's because of [Cancel], the Magic Bag I still had also came in handy.

Anyways the [Cancel] that I used this time, the official name was
[Cooling-Off] but, well, the effects where somewhat different in real life but, the strong point of this skill was that within a certain time frame after you trade something you were able to Cancel that.

By the way, the original use was for when you purchased new equipment. If you didn't like the gear then you could use this Cancel to cancel the transaction but,

This skill was, "returning merchandise" would be a pretty similar example to what this [Cancel] is. Once the time frame for Cancellation was decided, it was possible to use the weapons as much as you wanted before Canceling it.

Since every weapon had a predetermined level of endurance, normally once that decreased then the amount of money you can sell it for also lowered. But, if you used [Cancel], then you could get back the full amount of money you originally paid if you returned the goods before the time period was up.

That alone made the skill quite good however, something more amazing happened when you Cancelled the sale.
After all this skill, once you sold back the weapons, if in that moment you used [Cancel] then the thing you should have sold would return back into your hand. You would also keep the money you received for it.

In other words, if you were to use this skill, then it was possible to infinitely multiply the amount of money you had.

As you would expect, a large number of Players rushed to file complaints, the administration also recognized this as a bug. They announced that they would make the proper adjustments to remove it but—— Around that time the Prime Minister declared that the meteorite was about to fall. It was already too late for something like fixing a bug, because as it stands the Earth was going to be destroyed anyways.

Well, even with that, the saving grace of this skill was that it could only be used on NPCs.
But in this world you could naturally use it on ordinary people.

Thus, the end result this time was due to this skill. Still, I took the risk that it might not work out in this situation.

In the first place, do I need to be in a situation like right now to be able to invoke the skill? I had that sort of thought but, for some reason I had a feeling that it would work out and I turned out to be right.

But, obviously, I don't think I will be using this skill proactively.
But considering Melissa's situation, if push comes to shove then I thought it might be necessary to test it out a little bit.

That opportunity came because of that piece of trash storekeeper. Fortunately, I was able to make a profit while testing it out.
Thanks to that, now matter how many times I used it, my heart didn't ache at all. It had more of a "Suck it!", that sort of feeling.

Hmm, but thanks to that, taking into account the tax we had to pay and the toll, the amount of funds we have should be more than 900,000 Gold.

If we continue at this pace then earning 1.5 million Gold within the time period may not be that difficult.
For now let's head over to the Adventurer Guild to complete my registration.
After that we'll go sell the remaining gear and, after finding an inn, we'll call it a day——

◇◆◇

Since the Adventurer Guild was located on the side of the Western Gate, it didn't take much time to arrive there from the bar.

It was a two-story building that was not as large as the Merchant Guild but, well, the structure of the place used was different after all.

But the Adventurer Guild didn't have a place in front for you to leave your wagon. If possible I would have liked to go inside together with Melissa but.

「Master. If you request the wagon watchers to look after the wagon then it

would be possible to leave it here」(Melissa)

“Wagon watchers”? I wondered what that meant but, it seems like if you bring your wagon down the road, it appears that there are workers that will look after your wagon.

That sure is helpful, huh. I asked Melissa where we should go but, afterwards she waved her hand and a young lad wearing something that looked like a flat cap was called over.

It appears that he’s the wagon watcher. However, will it really be okay to leave it to such a young child?

「If anything happens then I’ll call ya right away with this whistle, so be sure to listen for it kay」(Lad)

Oh, I get it. So a watcher is different from a guard huh. Still, it seems that it costs 500 Gold per hour.
I won’t say its luxurious, but it’s still pretty helpful nonetheless.

For the time being, I paid for one hour by slipped a silver coin into his hand, And I headed towards the Guild together with Melissa.

The Guild was a box-shaped building with the mark of a Gryphon carved on the signboard.
The front entrance had a door shaped like a horseshoe and the both of us went inside by pushing past it.

Inside was extremely hot. People trying to receive their rewards for completing requests; there was also a board filled with requests for people to look at.
People gathered around a round-table in the back drinking alcohol.
People seriously talking to each other, Well, there were a variety of different people.

By the way, since the Guild offered alcohol a lot of people came here instead going to bars—— At least, that was the explanation back in the game.

Well, despite that, it’s still a Guild. Like the typical template, there was a front counter with receptionists who provided support for the adventurers lined up there.

It’s not as much in the Merchant Guild but, as expected it’s pretty busy.
Since the sun has already begun to set, I bet a lot of people have come back after completing their requests.

I found a relatively less crowded counter and lined up, waiting for my turn.

「The next person in line nya~」

Whoops, looks like I’m next. The person in charge of this counter was a cute young girl with an anime-like voice.
Her dress uniform was open chested, it had a tinge of red in it’s color.
Since this girl has nekomimi’s on top of her head she must be a beast-folk.
The game had beast-folk in it, after all. Also it had elves too.

However—— Her height was short but her boobs were big. Since her face was childish she looked just like a loli, I bet people can’t get enough just looking at her.

「Goshujin-sama——」

Oh crap! Melissa’s glaring at me with some malice! No, it’s not what you think. Sure I was looking at her cleavage but, you know how it is. Wait, what am I even panicking about.

First of all *Kohon*, I cleared my throat and once again turned my attention to the receptionist and began talking to her.

「My name is Hitto. For reasons I went on a free-willed journey and traveled here but, after calming down a bit I figured that I should register at this Guild. On my way here, I found this person, Melissa, and her accompanying wagon under attack by some thieves. I defeated the thieves and managed to save her but, unfortunately the adventurers who acted as escorts had already passed away. As such, I have come to report this in order to receive the bounty for the thieves. Also I want to simultaneously transfer the ownership of the adventurer’s equipment to me」(Hitto)

As I explained it to her like that, the receptionist looked at me as if she was surprised.

「That is, in other words -nyan. Even nyough (though) Hitto-nyan isn’t registered as an adventurer, you ended up exterminating some thieves, is that

right -nyan?」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

It doesn't really matter but, as expected she uses "nyan" to end her sentences -nyan.
Oops, looks like it's contagious.

「Ahh, that's right. If you don't believe me, should I bring out their heads?」(Hitto)

Incidentally, their heads were stored in my bag. It's alright to put even corpses in there after all.

「Nyo Nyo Nyo (no)! If you brought out the heads here it would cause trouble -nya! Afterwords I'll guide you to a room in Claims Assessment -nya! That's why, for now, let's finished your registration with the Guild -nyan!」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

She said this while bringing both of her hands forwards in cat-like pose.
It was cute but her hands were just like a normal person's.

「Alright then, please fill out the necessary information on this paper -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Either way this girl, if you overlook the time when she was surprised, it seems like she's constantly having fun.
She's constantly smiling with a friendly smile on her face.

Well, it's still much better than being constantly cranky. Even in convenience stores, in addition to the employees that hand you change with a frown on their face. If it was the same either way, I would rather have a JK with a warm smile on her face hand it to me instead.
(JK= Joshi kosei or Highschool girl)

Anyways, first of all, I begin filling out the paper that was handed to me.
Let's start off with my first name, "Hitto" should be good enough here.
It should be fine if I don't put a last name. I wrote that I was a traveler, after all.

Then, I filled in my height and weight as I remembered, and—— Fumu, "Job" finally showed up.

「Do I really need to fill this out?」(Hitto)

「Yup, Nyu (you) do. Is there something you are unsure about -nyan? Hmm? It's nyaa (the) job, eh? Are you not aware of your own Job[10] -nyan? If you haven't been given a job it's okay to leave it empty -nyan, you can also write down what you plan to be -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

For some reason I think that the ratio of "nyan"s had suddenly increased but, enough about that, it wasn't like I didn't know my Job. In the first place, I don't know how natural inhabitants of this world learn about their Jobs but, for me, my Job is a [Canceller].

There's no mistaking that. I can even confirm it on the Status in my head. However——

「That's not exactly the case but, by the way, do you know what a [Canceller] is?」(Hitto)

Well, let's verify it just in case.
If Cancellers exist in the first place then there's no need to hide it, after all.

But the truth was——

「Kyan[11]——? Nywat (what) is that? Nyat (that) is?」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

She tilted her head like a small animal while asking me a question.
Yup, adorable. No, that's not right.

「No, it's fine. Let's see, I'll say I'm a [Fighter]. Is it alright if I just right that down?」(Hitto)

「Nyat's (that's) fine. So～ then, nyu (you) are a [Fighter] eh, Nyai (I) see. Just like I thought -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

It seems like she thought I was a [Fighter] just by looking at me. Well, judging by my armor and dual swords you can guess it was something close to that.

By the way, so-called [Fighters] were a basic job in the warrior class.
As the name implies, it was someone who was skilled in using weapons in combat.

However, in regards to skill characteristics, a large number Players restricted themselves to only using a single weapon.
Additionally the other basic Jobs in the game were like this:

[Martialist] who specialized in using their bare hands.
[Archer] who's strong point was bows.
[Thief] which was proficient at stealing, setting traps, and escaping.
Production class jobs that focusing on forging called [Smiths], and apothecaries called [Drugger].
Magic users called [Mage], and Spirit Users called [Sorcerer].
Healing classes called [Sister] and [Parson] ([Sister] for Women and [Parson] for Men).
And finally there were people who used summons called [Summoner], and people who used monsters called [Evil Tamer].
(For clarity: [12])

If you include [Canceller] in this list then these Jobs make up all 12 of the basic job classes.
Still, jobs were further divided into upper-class, high-class, supreme-class, and extreme-class jobs. If you increased your rank high enough then it was possible to undergo a job change.

Well, with that, if you go off of the equipment I'm wearing right now, I thought that I could pass as a basic [Fighter] class but, it seems like that idea fit well with the image.

Not showing any signs of doubting, the catgirl at the reception desk began checking the form I had just finished filling out. Then she started explaining about the Guild.

「First I'll say the Adventurer Guild somehow suits you -nyan. The fundamental policy of the Adventurer Guild is to be an organization that conducts activities to help maintain the peace and security of the region -nyan. The primary focus of the Guild itself is to provide support for adventurers who are working to complete jobs -nyan. The jobs cover a wide range of things -nyan, but basically we accept and sponsor requests from individual people and countries -nyan. Adventurers perform these requests and afterwards receive a reward -nyan. Some of the simple requests include harvesting, mining, extermination of monsters and escorting. Well, there are a bunch -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Hmm, this part is pretty much the same as in the game. It would've been fine just to ignore it but, for some reason Melissa is seriously paying attention while

writing it down on a notepad.
Wait, when did you get a notepad?

「In order to accept a job, you go over to that Board and look at the requests. And after you choose a job that suits you, you bring it over here to the receptionist desk -nyan. However, aside from the contract-types there are also completion-types there -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

"Completion-type"? That's a Word I don't recognize.

「These so-called contract-types, like the name implies, are requests that adventurers complete themselves -nyan. Among them are some that recommend or require being in a Party so please be careful -nyan. There are also group requests there -nyan. Completion-types are, although I don't really have to say it, it's the type where once you have completed the contents of the request then you're able to receive the reward -nyan. One portion may include collecting things and another part may include exterminating monsters, this sort of thing is pretty common -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Oh, that's what it means. If I remember correctly, there were also rewards for killing monsters back in the game.
However, harvesting requests should have been completely separate requests back in the game, but, well, I bet it must be difficult for the receptionist desk to have to constantly process requests for medicinal herbs one-by-one.

「There are also Urgent Requests and Commission Requests among them -nyan. Urgent requests are ones that want you to prioritize them over everything -nyan. Commission requests are given to specified adventures by the Guild -nyan. It's possible to refuse commission requests -nyan, but if you refuse them then it will be reflected on the assessment of your rank -nyan. Conversely, if you accept and successfully complete them then your fame and fortune will both sky-rocket -nyan! It's a good deal -nyan!」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

So-called Urgent Quests also existed back in the game, but Commission ones didn't.
But, based on what she's saying, I think she's trying to subtly imply that if I end up getting a commission then I should definitely accept it.

「Next let's proceed to your rank -nyan. There are jobs that recommend that

you have at least a certain adventurer rank in order to do them -nyan. That recommendation basically means that they want someone of that rank to do that job -nyan. If you don't meet the rank requirements then you won't be able to accept the request -nyan.」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Well, there should be no problem with that.

「As I just said, adventurers each have a certain rank -nyan. When an adventurer first registers then they Start off at the lowest rank at [Beginner] -nyan. From there, the order goes up to [Novice], [Amateur], [Manager], [Expert], [Specialist], [Professional], and [Master] -nyan. Your rank changes based on each individual adventurers behavior, the success rate of requests, and personal ability, The Guild takes these into consideration when deciding a member's assessment -nyan. However, there are some adventures who are able to instantly raise their rank based on their merits -nyan. Nevertheless, it is still possible for your rank to be lowered in certain cases -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Now that you mention it, back in the game, there was no way for your rank to fall huh.

「When you say "in some cases it can fall," what kind of circumstances are they?」(Hitto)

In response to my question, the cat ears went *Pyokon![13]* and with them happily raised she answered me.

「Some examples of a case when your rank would fall is if you violate protocol, if your behavior was "poor", or if you don't accept requests in a very long time -nyan. By the way, in the case where your rank falls while you're at the initial stage of a [Beginner] then you'll be expelled from the Guild -nyan. Be careful -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

「Oh, I see. But being expelled is pretty harsh, huh. Leaving the protocol violation aside, how long can you go without accepting a request?」(Hitto)

「NyanNyan (TL: "Alright"?? I have no idea), first you'll be warned within 3 months -nyan. After 6 months we gather information about the individual and then decide if we should lower their rank -nyan. By the way, in our business we call those adventures that don't work outcast-adventurers[14] -nyan. Just a bit of trivia -nyan. You can also call expulsion a "Ban" -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Outcast-adventurers huh…… I don’t know why but somehow that doesn’t sound like a good thing.

「Outcast-adventurers eh——」(Melissa)

Wait, you’re even writing that in the notebook!? No, that might be important later.

Still, I should try my best to avoid getting involved in these outcast-people. Well, that’s probably impossible——

Chapter 9 “Guild Registration Complete”

「By the way, if you end up in an unavoidable situation where you won’t be able to work for a while -nya, then you can submit your activities report along with a holiday notice -nyan. Make use of it -nyan」

Oh, I see. By submitting that holiday notice you can avoid becoming that “Outcast“-thing, huh.
Incidentally, the reasons for submitting a holiday notice include illness, injury, *et cetera* but these appear to be the main causes.
The rest are a bit rare but, in order to undertake examinations by the country, or in order to cram for a test also seem to be valid reasons for a holiday notice.

Still, among them were ones you could use as excuses. Despite that there were still people that became Outcast-adventurers but, well, that sort of thing doesn’t really concern me.

However, to use it in “unavoidable situations” huh. I feel that it implies something different from just being sick though.

「With that, we’ve finished the general explanation -nyan. Lastly are the things you shouldn’t do in the Adventurer Guild -nyan. First is that you shouldn’t misuse information you get from a request -nyan. If you accept a mission to guard someone then you shouldn’t do things like leak that information out to thieves -nyan. Nothing absurd -nyan. Also you shouldn’t do something that would put the your client in a disadvantage position -nyan. Don’t swindle people or anything like that -nyan. Threatening or blackmailing people is also no good -nyan. Lastly, it is taboo to quarrel within the Guild -nyan. Actions like wounding or killing other adventurers is obviously forbidden -nyan. If you do any of these acts then you’ll be severely punished -nyan. Depending on the situation there might be a bounty placed on your head and other adventurers will be aiming for your neck -nyan. I want you to never do these things -nyan!」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

She said all this with a smile on her face huh, this girl. Well, that’s fine.

After all, I don't really plan on getting into fights with others for the time being.
There's just one thing though.

「Is it acceptable to use self-defense against people who come and attack you?」(Hitto)

This is something I should confirm just in case.

「That's acceptable -nyan. If you feel like your life is in danger then go all out and fight back -nyan. It's alright even if you kill them -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Even if you kill them…… No, well, that will probably end up being the case but, she easily said it with a smile on her face, huh.
She might actually be really scary, this catgirl

「There's nothing else to explain so I'm finished -nyan. Do you have any questions -nyan?」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Questions huh——

「Will the Guild really buy the raw materials we get from monsters?」(Hitto)

「That's right -nyan. It's often the case that while subjugating monsters you'll get raw materials from the subjugation portion -nyan. The Guild will buy those -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

「What about aside from monsters subjugation?」(Hitto)

「？ You sure ask weird things -nya-ne. There are no monsters that don't need to be subjugated -nyan. monsters are all already targets for subjugation -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

「But didn't you just say there were requests like extermination requests out there?」(Hitto)

「So-called Extermination Requests are requests sent when monsters begin concentrating in certain places -nyan. Individual monsters are already subjugation targets -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

So that's what you mean. In the game when you defeated monsters you were able to get money from them but, since monsters don't drop money in the real world, this is compensation for that right?

「Then that subjugation request is… what kind of request is that?」(Hitto)

「You sure like worrying about the minor details -nya-ne. You'll go bald you nyow (know)」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

「That's none of your business」(Hitto)

I said it with a groan. In the first place, my family history didn't have any bald people.

「It's a request that the country sends out in collaboration with the Guild -nya」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

In collaboration with the country eh. All things considered, will the budget be alright with that? That's what I thought for a second but after thinking about it there's also the raw materials you get from the subjugation portion.

Most likely the Guild uses this method in order to sell materials as wholesale to other places.
In other words, it's called subjugation but, it sort of looks like the Guild utilizes adventurers to collect raw materials huh.

I bet the Guild is collaborating because there seems to be a lot of money and profit in monster subjugation. It sure looks that way since the country is helping out too.

「Do you have any other questions -nyan?」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Oh, that's right. Now that you mention it, there's one more important thing I have to ask.

「Is it possible for slaves to register in the Guild?」(Hitto)

Off to the side Melissa went "Eh!?", she said it while quite surprised.
Well, I thought something like that might happen.

「It's possible -nyan. However, for slaves they are required to get permission from their slave owners first before they can register -nyan」(Nekmomimi-shoujo)

「Permission from the slave owner huh. Do you need documents for that?」(Hitto)

「An official document is no good -nyan. If they aren't here in person then it won't be allowed -nyan. Nyafter (after) all, we need to confirm the subordination vessel -nyan」(Nekmomimi-shoujo)

「You're quite strict about it huh」(Hitto)

「Of course -nyan. If we registered a runaway slave then, "whoops," it would be a serious problem -nyan」(Nekmomimi-shoujo)

As expected, it's related to runaway slaves eh……

「Perhaps you also wish to register that slave girl over there nyor (or) something like that?」(Nekmomimi-shoujo)

"Nyor something," she actually said it, this catgirl.

「No, I just wanted to ask about it. Well fine, That's all the questions I have for you」(Hitto)

「……Somehow you sure seem arrogant -nya」(Nekmomimi-shoujo)

Leave me alone.

「Well that's good -nyan. You're certificate is finished -nyan. But before I hand it over I'll be collecting the registration fee -nyan. That'll be 15,000 Gold -nyan」(Nekmomimi-shoujo)

「That registration fee is too high!」(Hitto)

「Of course -nyan. It's common sense -nyan. But if you're nyot (not) able to pay for it all at once nyen (then), we accept deferred payments -nyan. In that situation, we'll deduct it from your request rewards -nyan. What do you want to do -nya?」(Nekmomimi-shoujo)

「No, I'll pay for it now」(Hitto)

Saying that, I payed her 15,000 Gold in gold-coins.

「Thanks for your business -nyan」(Nekmomimi-shoujo)

What's with that phrasing?

「Alright then, here is your adventurer certificate -nyan. Hitto-nyan's personal information is recorded on it -nyan. It's definitely not good if you lost it -nyan. When you lose it then the Guild can't be held responsible -nyan. If harm is

caused to the Guild because someone abuses it then you yourself will be held responsible -nyan. The replacement fee will be 30,000 Gold -nyan. You're able to update it once a year -nyan. Anyone up to [Expert] has to pay a 20,000 Gold renewal fee -nyan. Above [Expert] it's free of charge -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

I feel that she said some pretty amazing things without hesitation.
This sort of thing is completely different from the game. Wait, even the renewal fee is way too high!
Even though it's free for people above [Expert]!

「Well, at least the registration is over for now. Afterwards, I'll leave the change in ownership and the case with the thieves to you」(Hitto)

「I understand -nyan. Come this way -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

I was invited inside by the receptionist, and I followed her towards the back but.

「You can't go any further -nyan! Past this point is off-limits for anyone except for adventurers -nyan!」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

The catgirl held our her hand and declared this as if it was a command to my slave (Planned), Melissa.
As a result, Melissa looked at a loss on how to respond.

「If it's the rules then it can't be helped. Melissa, can I ask you to go back to the wagon and look after it?」(Hitto)

「Ah, of course. Is that so, I understand. Well then, I will do my best to properly look after the wagon!」(Melissa)

No, well, we originally entrusted that job to the wagon watcher, but if I told her to wait here then I have a feeling that it would be somewhat dangerous.
In short, I'm worried about her. But since that's embarrassing to say I used the wagon as an excuse.

Although there were more-or-less some figures of women among them, it was pretty much nothing but savage adventurers out there.
To make Melissa wait for me here is, it's kind of like tossing a female sheep into a pack of starving wolves.

「It's fine if you have that Lad continue looking after the wagon as well」(Hitto)

「No such thing! If I am to return to the wagon then it will my job to look after it!」(Melissa)

So, she went back to the wagon with a strange fighting spirit. Well, an hour hasn't passed yet so I think the payment should be fine for now…… And, well, I doubt anything will happen in that wide-open street.

After all, it's probably safer to wait there than in here.

「These bunch of thieves have recently been showing up a lot -nyan. They've caused a lot of damage -nyan. To be able to defeat them single-handedly is amazing -nyan!」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

I entered the assessment room and, as instructed, placed the heads on top of the table but, I'm getting praised quite a lot huh.
Were these guys really such a big deal? Honestly they were so weak that it kinda annoyed me though.

「The adventueres that were defeated by these thieves were all [Amateurs] -nyan. They were pretty skilled -nyan. You fought against opponents that could take down a Party of them -nyan. That means if we look at just your strength then Hitto-nyan is above [Amateur] rank -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

She's most likely trying to praise me but, for some reason it sounded weird. Saying "Amateur" really makes it seem that way.
Although it didn't seem that way in the game.

「Does that mean that my rank will go up right away?」(Hitto)

Well, since I was more-or-less interested I asked to find out.

「That's not gonna happen -nyan. It's nyunfortunate (unfortunate) but if you're not registered at the Guild then your accomplishments before entering will nyot (not) give you any merits -nyan. But with this level of strength you'll definitely escape [Beginner] rank in no time at all -nyan. Do your best -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

Yea. I figured as much. As expected, it wouldn't be that simple.

「Alrighty then, the reward for these thieves is 15,000 Gold per person -nyan.

Also I've finished with the ownership transfer -nyan. With that, everything is done -nyan」(Nekomimi-shoujo)

……15,000 Gold per person huh. For some reason I feel that she's been telling me some rather strange amounts of money while going "amazing, amazing."
Well, there's no helping that huh.

For now I grab the things that I received, expressed my thanks to the catgirl receptionist, and stepped away from the counter.

And then before I left the Guild I went over to the notice board to look over the requests posted there—— But, most of the requests were already gone.

「Nii-chan, are ya a newcomer?」

While I was looked at the notice board, suddenly a voice called out to me from the side.
When I looked there was a middle-aged adventurer with a beard shaped like the character 口 who was intently staring at my gear.

「Yea that's right. I'm Hitto, a [Beginner] adventurer that just registered today. And you are?」(Hitto)

「I'm not someone who needs a name, just a "Mob". Nice to meetcha」

……Is that so, so he's a small-fry huh.

「Anyways Nii-chan, despite being a newcomer you've got some nice equipment, ya know?」(Mob)

「Is that right? Well, if you're judging based on only looks then you must be spot-on」(Hitto)

It appears that there are some people in this world that can pretty much tell a person's worth huh.
Well, there are some that try to deceive newcomers who have just registered though.

「That right? Well whateva, besides that Nii-chan. If you're looking for a request at this time of day then it's pointless ya know」(Mob)

"Pointless?" I was suspicious as I asked.
But then, "Mob" nodded his head.

「If you're looking for a request then there's an appropriate time to do so. There's a certain time when they're posted on there. The good requests are pretty much taken right away. Moreover, since adventurers are always hungry for more work, it's standard to scramble for them. If someone like you leisurely takes him time searching then you'll soon run out of work ya know」(Mob)

…… Oh I see. In the game, as long as it wasn't past the the posted time interval, requests didn't disappear. Because of that I was a bit careless huh.

But if you're talking about reality then that definitely won't be the case.

「Is it always like this?」(Hitto)

「Pretty much. It was a bit calmer before the feudal lord changed but, since the new lord raised the taxes, it's been pretty harsh for us to maintain our livelihood. On top of that, the strings on our client's wallets have grown tighter so the request rewards have started to diminish. That's why adventurers all desperately try and snatch up the few juicy jobs left」(Mob)

That stuff about the feudal lord was just like what Melissa said huh. So his influence even stretches as far as here.
It is truly a troublesome topic.

「But is it alright for you to teach me this stuff? Won't you be bothered by it as well?」(Hitto)

「Well, certainly "I have no need to be tellin' a newcomer about this sorta information!" there are some guys who think that way. But I understand the importance of newcomers so I plan on nurturing them. That's why I'm teaching ya these things」(Mob)

Despite calling himself a mob-character he sure is a person who properly thinks about things.
For thinking of you as small-fry from the start, I'm sorry about that, seriously.

「Is that so, thanks for the valuable information」(Hitto)

「Ya don't have to thank me, Ahh one more thing——」(Mob)

"Mob" taught me the times when requests were posted, and after that we parted ways.

Thanks to that I was saved quite a bit of trouble huh.
Incidentally the times when requests are posted are in the morning, midday, afternoon, and in the evening. Four times in total.

So, if that was the case then the only requests posted right now are Completion Requests huh.
Then, this is——

Completion Request
・Collection of Nankou Grass
Requirements: Nothing in particular
Details: Please collect Nankou Grass that grows in the Aloe Forest
Reward: 50 Gold for every 10 grams

This is—— Is this some sort of request for medicinal herbs? That's what I understand from the name but, it's the type where you can get a reward as long as you go and collect a certain amount of grams.

I have the Magic Bag after all. Considering that, this might just be a juicy request.
This request didn't exist in the game but I already knew about the Aloe Forest.
In the game, it should be not too far off to the West from here.

After I was considerably composed, I called out to one of the receptionists.
It was a different receptionist from the catgirl before but, well, it was the same either way.

「I just wanted to ask, but how long would to take to reach the Aloe Forest on foot?」(Hitto)

「If you are referring to the Aloe Forest then it would take about 30~40 minutes for a Warrior-class adventurer to reach there on foot. However, if it was something like a Magic-class then it may take a bit longer」

「I see. Then, if I'm not mistaken, this request is a Completion-type one right?」(Hitto)

I asked while I pointed at the only remaining request on the notice board.

「Yes. That request is something that is never discontinued you see. Even so, no matter how much Nankou Grass you pick from the Aloe Forest, the next morning

more of them will have sprouted. That's how much vitality it has, you see. As such, this request is there every single day」(Receptionist)

Is that how it is? That's quite the regenerative ability huh——

「Is this Nankou Grass some sort of medicinal herb?」(Hitto)

「Yes. However, if you leave it as a grass then it would not have much of an effect. In the hands of a [Drugger] it can be compounded into a medical cream that is useful as a healing ointment. The person who sends out this request is, that person mass produces this medication in order to amass a massive fortune large enough for a lifetime」(Receptionist)

Hmm~ So that's it. Even though this used to be a game world, once it became real there are a bunch of people like this.

「Do you have any other questions for me?」(Receptionist)

「No, I'm good. Thanks」(Hitto)

As I said that I parted ways with the receptionist, and decided to leave the Guild.

Well, first let's do that. Let's head out to the Aloe Forest tomorrow morning.
I bet if I show up early in the morning then I'll be able to gather a bunch of them.
In these situations I'm really grateful that the Magic Bag exists.

I was planning on going by myself early in the morning, and while I was thinking that I left the Guild and decided to return to the wagon but——

「Hey, hey Nee-chan. Come play with us a bit」

「Na!? Wait, Please stop it!」

「Don't look so grossed out, I'm sure it will be much more fun with us than with that dude」

「If ya want, you can have some nighttime fun with us ya know」

…… What's with those dim-witted guys?

Chapter 10 “Minor Villains Always Come in Groups of Three”

「What on Earth are you guys doing?」

As I headed towards the coachman’s seat, some guys were trying to take Melissa away against her will. As I approached the trio who clearly looked like they had bad personalities, with a scowl on my face I called out to them.

Actually, leaving those thieves aside, I wonder why these kind of guys fundamentally come in groups of three.

「Ahnn? Why’d you gotta go and come back for」
「Ya sure are an idiot eh. Ya come back just to get beat’n up huh」
「Well, he’s got a face that doesn’t look too smart after all, Gyahahaha!」

Yea… It’s plain to see that you’re the ones who aren’t too bright though.
Wait, what are these guys saying about getting beat up? We’re right in the middle of the street you know.

「Goshujin-sama!」

And then, Melissa appeared from the wagon to show her concern. However——

「Melissa. It’s alright so just get back on the wagon. Everything’s going to be fine here」(Hitto)

After all, these three have all their attention focused on me right now.

「Kee! Alright my ass! Trying to show off like that!」

「Don’t get all cocky just cuz there’s a cute slave in front of ya!」

Don’t all start making ugly faces and spitting abusive words at me.

「I don’t really care but, who are you guys? I don’t remember any of your faces, nor do I remember anything that would make you hold a grudge against me」

(Hitto)

「Shaddup! Even if you don't know any, we've got some! You're just a rookie adventurer and yet, you're too god damn cocky just 'cuz ya got a slave like that!」

…… Well I'm wearing armor, and I'm carrying weapons because I expected something like this to happen.

「You guys, would you possibly be adventurers?」(Hitto)

I asked them with an astonished look in my eyes. Nevertheless, maybe it's because they didn't notice my attitude at the moment, but one of them spoke up while acting like an arrogant child.

「That's right! As you can see we're well-known [Amateur] adventurers with pretty famous names around here! We're on a completely different level than a bastard like you」

I wondered when would be a good time to Tsukkomi that. After all, I highly doubt that being well-known [Amateurs] would be anywhere close to impressive.

「If you get it then you've only got two choices left. To get beaten to a pulp by us and have your woman taken, or obediently leave the woman and all your belongings here and scram!」

…… I don't "got" to make any choices, you idiot. If you say it like that then I've only got one option you know.
Wait, would you do anything to get your hands on a woman? Just how thirsty are you.

「My answer is neither of them. To begin with, I don't have any reason to leave Melissa and my belonging with you guys, nor do I have any reason to get beaten up. In the first place, isn't quarreling among adventurers strictly forbidden? If the guild found out about this then you guys won't be let off that easily」(Hitto)

「Haah? You too, what the hell are you talking about? Did you not hear it properly? They said it was no good to harm or kill someone only if you don't have a reason for it」

「Well, that's true. That's why the things you guys are doing right now would be considered senseless violence without a reason」(Hitto)

「Don’t act so stupid! We’ve got a reason! It’s because we don’t like your face!」

…… What’s with these guys? Are they some sort of neighborhood bullies? Are they the type that thinks “What’s mine is mine and what’s yours is also mine”? No, but based on looks they certainly seem shameless though.

「I doubt that reason would pass at the guild though」(Hitto)

「Nah~ It’ll pass! Cuz this is what we’ve always done til now!」

「Kekee, We’re pretty famous for being crushing newbies around here, we’re so-called Adventurer Killers」

Newbie Crushers or Adventurer Killers, make it clear which one you are geez.

「Well, but don’t worry about it. We won’t be taking away yur weapons. If we went that far then the guards would come and that wouldn’t be funny at all. That would cause some trouble for the Guild too」

You actually care if it causes trouble for the Guild!? In that case stop doing these things in the first place!

「That’s why we’re gonna beat you as hard as we can」
「Still, no hard feelings if ya end up dying」

Of course I’d hold a grudge. Your words are so messed up that I have nothing left to say.

「Ah fine, I get it, I get it. So for now I’ll do that」(Hitto)

「Hmm? So yur gonna leave the woman——」
「Cancel! Cancel! Cancel!」(Hitto)

「……Wut?」
「Hmm?」
「We……」

Alright then, with this, all of them are dumbfounded with question marks on their faces huh.

「Heey, are you done with me?」(Hitto)

「Eh? Uh, yea…」

The three stooges sure are confused huh. Well, I ignored that and climbed onto the wagon, And I instructed Melissa to drive away from this place——

◇◆◇

If I got involved in a fight, the possibility that guards would show up was not non-existent.

Those guys made it seem like if would be alright if they went all out and beat me with their bare hands but, that sort of thing wasn't guaranteed.

After all, I had absolutely nothing to gain from playing around with those guys. It would just be a complete waste of time.
I figured that Cancelling that situation and simply riding away would be be easier, that's why I did it.

But still, as expected Melissa is looking my way in amazement huh.
Well, she's probably thinking something like "You did something back there" though.

「Ah, umm It might be rude of me to ask but, perhaps Master used some kind of Magic or something similar in order to make the situation turn out like that?」(Melissa)

"Magic" eh. So that's what she concluded it was huh.
But if that's the case then——

「Yea, I only used a bit though」(Hitto)

I responded while making it sound like "guess it can't be helped". Would it be alright if I finally talked to her about [Cancel]? That sort of thought crossed my mind but, it would be pretty difficult explaining about something that doesn't exist in this world.

「I thought so! As expected, Master really is amazing. In addition to having the strength to take on thieves like that, to think that you could also use Magic! For me to be able to serve Master like this, I truly believe that I am blessed」(Melissa)

Yea. Still, I keep saying that it isn't official yet though.
Well, the person herself seems delighted about it so I'll refrain from raining on her parade.

「Even so, I am frustrated at how useless I am」(Melissa)

“Useless”?

「Why is that? Why do you think that?」(Hitto)

「That’s because—— Although you gave me the duty of protecting the wagon, I wasn’t able to come up with a way to deal with that bunch. As such, I am a failure as Master’s slave!」(Melissa)

So you were thinking those sort of things huh. Well, I really did ask her to look after the wagon though.
After all, I was originally worried about leaving her among a bunch of rowdy adventurers so I sent her out there by herself.

Well, as a result of that she still got wrapped up in a different situation though. It’s dangerous to put too much trust in the public order within the city huh, should’ve expected that.

「You sure are silly, Melissa」(Hitto)
「Fu’hyaa!」(Melissa)

Well, that being said, while I was trying to do something for the disheartened Melissa, I placed my hand on her head and tried gently petting her.

「Ah, ahh, Goshujin-sama——」(Melissa)

At first she let out a strange voice but, her eyes immediately started to doze off and her cheeks were dyed a light pink color.

「I’m really grateful to you, you know. After all, we’re only able to operate the wagon right now because of Melissa, also didn’t you teach me a bunch of things about the Merchant Guild? Even in the Adventurer Guild you did your very best to take down notes in a memo. Melissa, you’ve been plenty helpful so far, you know.」(Hitto)

Upon hearing my words of gratitude, tears built up on Melissa’s eyes, and she turned to me with dampened eyes. (TL note: T.T I’m such a softie)

「Goshujin-sama—— I am truly unworthy of such kind words……」(Melissa)

She answered back in a soft and reserved voice.
I once again came to realize just how cute Melissa is.

On top of that she's pretty submissive. Will this girl really become my slave—— I unintentionally began imagining some dirty things in my head but, I firmly shook my head in order to erase them.

「Uh, well, next is that. In any case, we've got to hurry up and finish selling off the leftover equipment」(Hitto)

「Ah! Of course, let's do that! Master, in regards to that matter——」(Melissa)

「Thank you very much——」

Inside the store that Melissa told me about, we were able to sell the precious gem just like she said we could.
It was the gem embedded in the ring Tornelo had on his finger.

That aside I once again admired Melissa's estimation ability and her proficiency in gathering information.
After all according to Melissa, "It is possible that we will be taken advantage if we sell goods to terrible stores," or so I'm told.

It seems that since the taxes were raised really high, many businesses changed their policies to selling their goods very high and buying things only at cheap prices. If you went to a terrible store, and if you were not an aristocrat then they would bargain their buying price until it became dirt cheap.

However, there were a few stores among them that have not changed their policies yet. Melissa says that there are still a few that upheld the principle of treating customers dearly and tried their best to please them.

「Next would be selling the leftover equipment desu-ne」(Melissa)

「I guess so. Although there seems to be plenty of extravagant weapon and armor shops around here」(Hitto)

I pointed towards the stores that lined the sides of the Main Street. If I remember correctly, that was where you would most likely find equipment shops back in the game.

「Master, all of those stores are managed by that man Bungle that you met back in the Merchant Guild. They are stores with a rather strict atmosphere to them. As such, I honestly would not recommend going to those stores. Instead I

would——」(Melissa)

Melissa guided us to a place that was secluded far away from the main road.
The barren road that we used to get there gave off the impression that it was just a soiled alleyway that wasn't properly maintained. It was so narrow that the wagon could just barely get through.
If another wagon came from the opposite direction then I doubt we would be able to pass each other.

Somehow nestled in this crowded street, a rundown building was standing there.

No, it actually did look like a store but, at a glance it really did look just like the other worn out homes in the area. It was in a pretty sorry state, if it wasn't for the tattered signboard then you probably won't notice it was a store.

Rather, if Melissa hadn't told me about it then I probably would have completely ignored it.

With that being said, we left the wagon in front of the shop, and I entered the building along with Melissa.
The entrance was a type of sliding door made of wood that was quite unusual for this world.

While thinking that that the game didn't have anything like this I went inside.
Now that you mention it, this was obviously the first time I've heard that all of the weapon and armor stores along the street were managed by Bungle.
As expected, the setting that I knew from back in the game has changed quite a bit.

「Come on in」

As we entered the store, the shopkeeper behind the counter abruptly called out to us.

However, this is——

I fixed my gaze on that shopkeeper. He had a short and stout physique. And he had a think and bushy moustache and beard combo.
His height was short but his muscles were bulging out so it looked like he had a sturdy body.

Yup, this guy is definitely a dwarf.